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THE UNIVERSITY CLUB

Yesterday and Today

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EDITED BY

WILLIAM L. CHENERY

NEW YORK · 1955

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THE UNIVERSITY CLUB, NEW YORK

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

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Preface

The purpose of the founders of the University Club, as suggested forty years ago by the late Joseph H. Choate, one of its organizers in the critical days at the close of the Civil War, has been accomplished. In a true sense it has found expression, and is finding expression, in the enthusiastic recognition accorded the Club by its members in every state of the union and many foreign countries. Many distinguished men, both members and guests in all walks of life, have saluted it. Its example has been an influence to others. It is not only the "Mother of University Clubs" but one of the leading institutions in the cultural and social life in our City and Country. Many great clubs in the university centers in the West and far western areas of our vast country have been its natural offspring. Its national influence has been considerable.

Now, after nearly a century, its character attracts university men, authors, scholars and other leaders in our municipal and national society. Its governing board, the Council, has so administered its affairs that there has been an increasingly worthy contribution to its fundamental purpose. No controversy arising from internal politics, nor from external public affairs, has disturbed its wholesome influence for nearly one hundred years.

The purpose of this brief reference to its "Yesterdays" and its "Present Days" is not to duplicate nor to carry on the detailed historical record that is to be found in the History, prepared by one of its early presidents (1891-1899), James W. Alexander, and published in 1915. There is to be found in this notable volume the Club's early records,

committee reports and documents relating to its origin and to its activities during the first fifty years of its busy and exciting development from 1865 to just after the turn of the century. We pay tribute to the group who nearly a century ago met in the "Red Room" in the home of one of its members and elsewhere until the construction of the present clubhouse, which was opened May 17, 1899.

The clubhouse at 1 West 54 Street is a monument to the architectural skill and taste of an early member of the Club, Charles F. McKim. Mr. James Kellum Smith, of McKim, Mead & White, has hereinafter interestingly written about our clubhouse. He records with affectionate pride the adaptability of the McKim design to meet the unforeseeable requirements that followed the revolution in men's habits of the first half of the twentieth century. It externally and internally is recognized by our members and by the community as a triumph of architectural skill and of decoration. It is frequently said that a more beautiful edifice of its character does not exist. Mr. McKim's former partner and fellow member, Mr. Stanford White, created all interior and art embellishments which have been hailed as masterpieces of architecture and art.

The purpose of this small volume is to make available and better known, through the authorship of some of its members in charge of its several activities, the manner in which the purpose of our "Founders," has been fulfilled, particularly since 1915. That was the end of the period of club history and activities covered by Mr. Alexander's History of The University Club of New York. The activity of the Club just prior to and since the turn of the century is well known to our older members. Especially is it known to that large number who have received certificates of

membership of fifty years or more. It is not only unusual but it is indeed fortunate that so many of our present members have been awarded "The Fifty Year Membership Scroll."

Repeatedly has the true character of the Club been defined and given effect, not only by our members, but by our guests. They label the Club and its activities as an institution of gentlemen who in many ways have had a definite influence upon the cultural and social life, not alone of the city in which our clubhouse is located but in other sections of our country.

It is not the purpose of this condensed and brief "record-report" to deal adequately with the specific incidents we find in the history of the Club but rather briefly to remind its older and present members, and those who may become members, of the past record of the Club and of its present activities and accomplishments in keeping alive and vigorous an institution and a tradition. The purpose of a record of this character is not only to leave the member reader with a feeling of satisfaction and contentment and to have his interest stimulated to the point of a desire to participate to a greater extent in the activities of his Club, but to keep fresh in the minds of its present members, and in those who will follow them, the accomplishments of the Club and the purpose of their continuance.

It is customary for a Chairman of a History Committee to give recognition to members of the Club who have helped make a book possible. But, in this instance it is hoped that it has been accomplished by having the individuals who have contributed participate, as they do in the "report-record" herein set forth. They are the authors of much of the recital of our activities. To them we and all

of our fellow-members are especially indebted for their participation. We are most grateful for the unusually helpful and unselfish service of our fellow-member and former member of our Library Committee, William L. Chenery, the Editor of this book, with the cooperation of Whitney Darrow.

To all who have so splendidly and generously contributed go our sincere thanks.

EDWIN S. S. SUNDERLAND
Chairman of the History Committee

And All Our Yesterdays

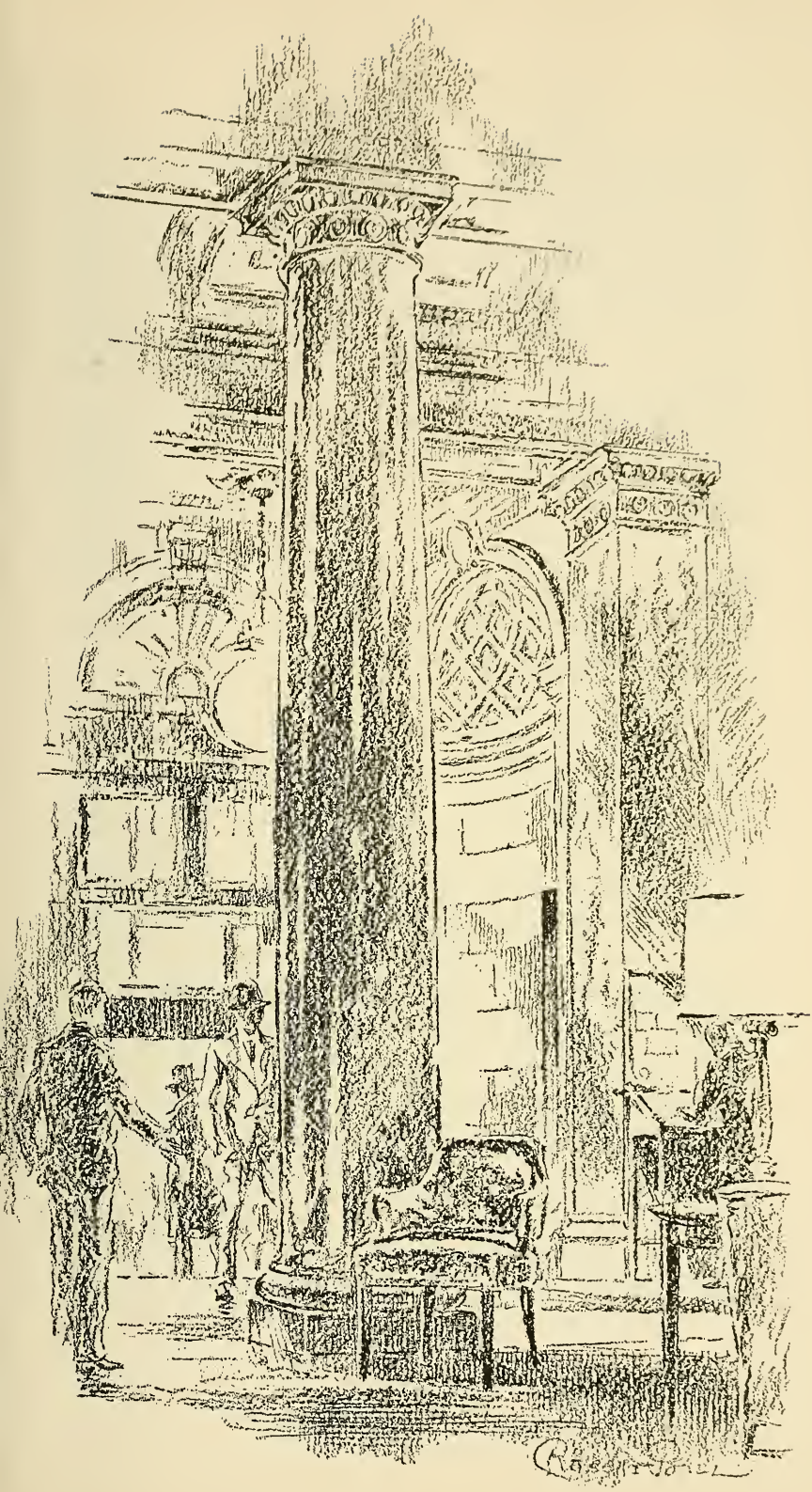
The University Club is a friendly association of men who have had the common experience of exposure to certain recognized American colleges. Although attendance at approved institutions of learning is a prerequisite to membership, the University Club is not a learned society. To join the Club requires prior graduation from a respected college but it implies nothing concerning the scholarly qualifications of the applicant for membership. To be accepted as a member certifies not that a man is learned but only that he is not exclusively self-educated.

The thought of the founders was that the graduates of American colleges resident in New York City had enough memories and tastes and habits in common to provide a foundation for congenial association. Every organized group is inevitably brought together by some rule of selection. The criteria of choice are generally negative as well as positive. A religious society tends at first to accept only those who profess the same faith. Exclusivity is by definition the practice of most social institutions. Even governments prescribe tests before foreigners are naturalized as citizens. The emphasis of the University Club, however, has been positive rather than negative. A candidate for membership must be stamped by a college and must be male and must be acceptable to the membership committee selected by the existing members. Otherwise the qualifications are general and undefined. The best indication of the character of the club is the record of the activities of the members.

The traditions and the principles of the University Club are the natural reflections of the tastes and characters of

the men who created it. About ninety years ago a number of college trained men in New York decided that they would enjoy membership in a club in which men of similar educational training and social habits might meet. The conception of the club came from their knowledge of the existing clubs in London. Some of these were political in character. All were social in habit. Membership was not conditioned by formal education but the atmosphere of the clubs was created by members who were in fact university graduates. Men who had known the Athenaeum Club or White's, or the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London sought to create in New York a place at which men of similar qualities and tastes might naturally come together.

Sitting and eating and drinking, sitting and reading and talking, and just plain sitting were activities our grandfathers and great-grandfathers thought peculiarly appropriate to clubs. They preferred to keep their clubs free of women. They doubtless understood the purpose and function of women, or at least some of the purposes and functions, but companionship with men in clubs was not one that they recognized. The University Club was more than fifty years old before it decided that women might be admitted to a dining room. (Once they were let in, their presence was found to be not only inoffensive but enough of a resource to augment satisfactorily the revenues of the club.) Clubs were refuges to which men might retire to escape the tedium of family life and homely conversation and the University Club had no wish to create an exception to this rule. Members came into the various buildings that have been home to the Club safe in the knowledge that their peaceful thoughts and quiet emotions would not be aroused by the sight of a woman to whom they had to speak. The obvious



taste for sitting was served by the provision of chairs ample for the girth and avoirdupois of the most successful and relaxed of members. Their dozings in the great chairs nearby the Avenue windows were conspicuous enough to strengthen the already crystallized impression of what was needed to enjoy the privileges of club life.

But though they sat and ate, or ate and drank, or sat and read, or sat and talked, or sometimes stood up and played billiards, or sat and played backgammon or cards, these gentlemen managed to create an institution widely and favorably known throughout the city, the nation and the world where men prize and cherish and practice the amenities of civilized intercourse. The Club has become a place at which men who have had the advantages of formal higher education and who themselves are acceptable companions to others of like training and of similar social habits may find a home in the city away from the home in which they maintain their wives and rear their children. It has become one of the distinguished places where members may meet their friends, eat meals in pleasant surroundings and find recreation to their tastes with others like-minded. And incidentally to play an important role in upholding the amiable standards of living called "civilized."

The impulse to form associations to eat together seems to have appeared very early in the development of civilized society. Back in pre-Christian Rome Cicero represents Cato, a very stern and highly respected character, as saying that he had always remained a member of a club. According to Cicero, Cato said that he always dined at a feast with members of his clubs. As he looked backward the old man said that on the whole he had dined with moderation. He emphasized the point too that the dinners were for eating

rather than drinking. Or at least in his view food had been more important than drink. When civilization sank below the horizon, clubs vanished with it but the impulse was always there. When the European world climbed back to the social level Rome had reached seventeen hundred years before, men began to enjoy companionship when they ate leisurely. Thus clubs imperceptibly germinated in the coffee houses of London. Shakespeare was a reputed member of the club that met at the Mermaid Tavern in Bread Street at the close of the sixteenth century. The Mermaid attracted the interest of a great many famous writers. Of it Keats wrote appreciatively long after the original group were dead:

> Have ye tippled drink more fine
> Than mine host's Canary wine?
> Or are fruits of Paradise
> Sweeter than those dainty pies
> Of venison?

The club that the creators of the University Club would like to have resembled was the Athenaeum in London. This included among its organizers novelists, poets, painters and scientists, a fair Who's Who of the London of the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The actual start of the University Club was made, however, by a group of young men, chiefly recent graduates of Yale, about 1865. They were neither very rich nor very famous. Their purpose to keep alive the agreeable associations of college days was the strong cement of their organization. The moving spirit was Francis Edward Kernochan, a Yale graduate of 1860, who assembled a group of his friends at his father's house at the corner of Ninth Street and Second Avenue in the fall of 1861. Out of the meetings at the Kernochan residence,

the Red Room Club was formed. This took its name from the color of the wallpaper in the Kernochan reception room allotted to the young men. When Joseph Kernochan, father of the host, died his house was closed and then it was that the group decided to form a university club. Many of the group had been students of Professor Theodore W. Dwight, a famous teacher of law in Columbia College. They had the useful idea of persuading their friend and teacher to be president of the club they wanted to create. With Professor Dwight as president the University Club was founded, and established in a house in Tenth Street between Broadway and University Place.

At the party on December 18, 1940, in College Hall, celebrating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Club, George E. Brewer, Jr. produced a short one-act play as one of the features of the evening's entertainment. The scene of the skit was "The Red Room" in Joseph Kernochan's residenee. Darwin Kingsley, Rudolph Zinsser, Henri Esquerie, Ruari MacLeod, Ivy Lee, Jr., Walter E. Johnson, Cedric Crowell and George Brewer comprised the cast, eaeh in the correct dress and eaeh representing one of the founders. The furnishings, making for a real reproduction of the Red Room, were loaned by W. J. Sloane. The furniture alone was insured for $80,000. This was an oeeasion and a presentation that will long be remembered with deep appreciation by our members.

The years after the Civil War were disturbed and financially difficult. The young men who had organized the University Club had not at the time the resources neeessary to develop it. So for more than a decade the new organization in effect hibernated. The charter was kept alive but the club itself became merely a dining organization until

1879. By that time some of the original organizers had become men of substance and of standing in the city, well able to re-create the kind of club they had hopefully launched fourteen years before. This time the University Club was housed on the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fifth Street.

The University Club after its second founding quickly attained the prosperity and the esteem it has since enjoyed. In the early years it had much of the quality of an ivy leaf institution. Its members had been schooled in the colleges and universities attended by young men from New York and by others who from choice or necessity became New Yorkers. As the club succeeded and membership became more sought, the standards of selection used by the Admissions Committee and the Council were more sharply defined. The controversies among college faculties over the cultural advantages of the different curricula were reflected in the discussions in the Admissions Committee. While it is not in the record that anyone at any time ever spoke classical Greek in the University Club, some of the earlier leaders were clearly of the opinion that the study of Latin and Greek was much more likely to produce a gentleman whose society they would enjoy than were the looser and more utilitarian courses represented or concealed by the bachelor of science degree. To their honor it should be remembered that these founders were themselves so deferential to facts that they confided their suspicions to the various college administrators whose graduates were under consideration. The elective system of the late Charles W. Eliot was the undoing of the advocates of the Greek or the bachelor of arts test of fitness for membership in the club. The statements of policy from the gentlemen of the Admissions Committee indicated

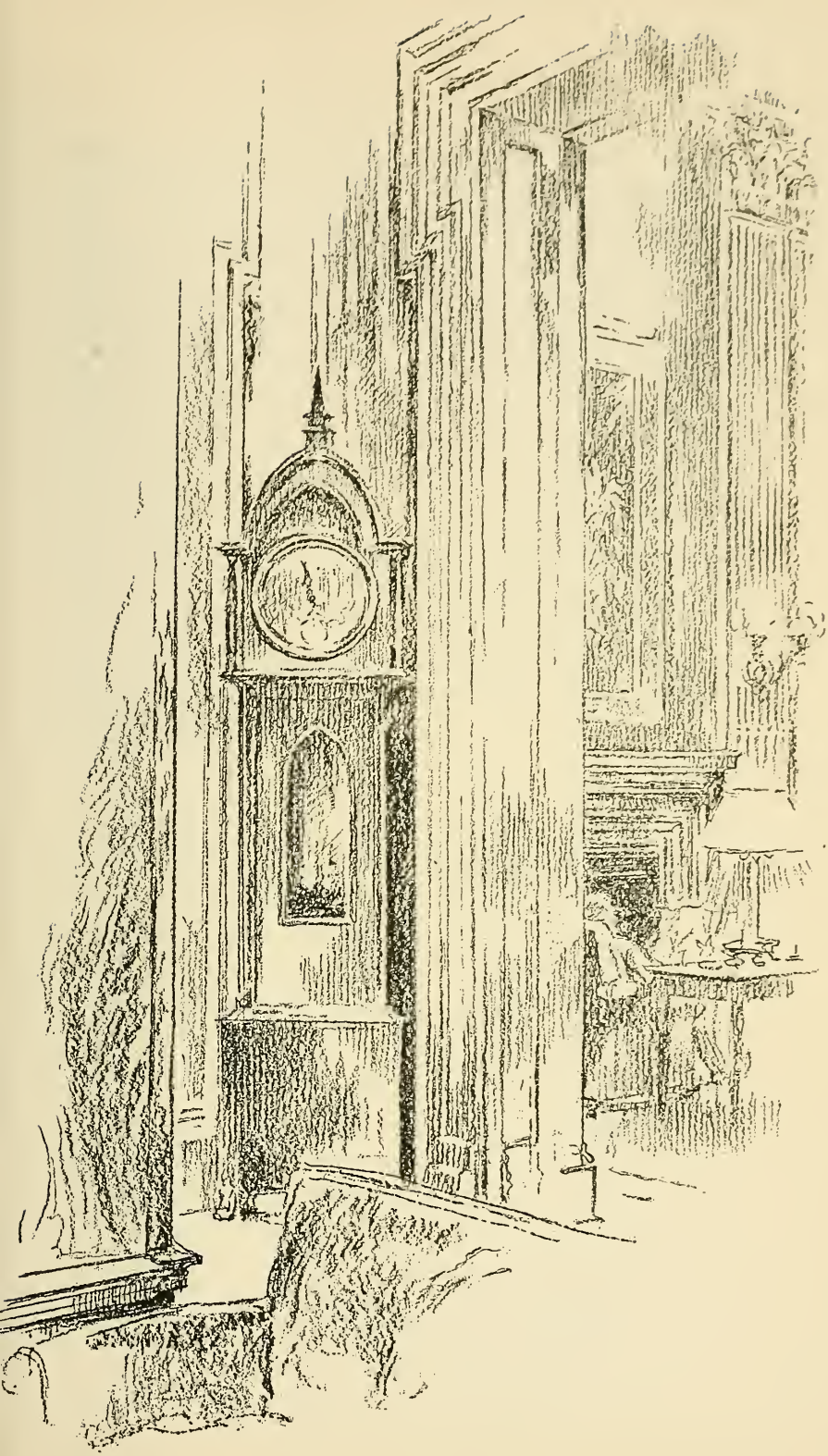
plainly enough that while they knew that a little Greek and some Latin should be stirred into every proper University Club candidate, it was impossible to exclude men stamped by Harvard as educated even though they were classical defectives. What was good enough for the very famous Mr. Eliot of Cambridge had to be accepted and applied when other institutions not in the Ivy League sent up their candidates. That consideration of how far we should go with the tide or bend to the winds that were sweeping through the campuses was important in developing and in maintaining the character of the Club.

The Club was concerned from the beginning not only to keep the quality of its membership on a high level but also to provide proper housing for itself. Efforts were made to buy the house rented at Thirty-fifth Street and Fifth Avenue, but when acceptable terms could not be had the Club leased the residence of Leonard Jerome at the southeast corner of Madison Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street (this is now the Manhattan Club). Leonard Jerome (Princeton 1839) was the grandfather of Sir Winston Churchill, who was a boy of nine when Mr. Jerome leased his residence. The future greatness of the grandson was not a recorded part of the consideration but the elegance of the house with its ample facilities for entertainment was much appreciated by the members of a growing organization. The spacious dining room, the library and the theater built into the Jerome home suggest that Sir Winston showed canniness of intuition in picking his American grandfather. The University Club also prospered by its use of the facilities provided by Mr. Jerome and during that period developed the ambition and the resources that led to the building of its present sumptuous home. The Jerome

home satisfied the requirements of a club of a thousand members so agreeably that the impulse to expand was not to be resisted.

The activities of the University Club were enlarged by the opportunities made convenient by the Jerome mansion. For the first time adequate space for a library was available. The Club had enough members who cared to read, and even to write, to assure the use and popularity of the library and reading room. Some celebrated books were produced by men who read and thought and wrote in the Club. Not least of them was Admiral Mahan, whose books on sea power have played so large a part in the thinking of the great powers during the last half century. As soon as it was well organized, the Club made special efforts to offer hospitality to officers of the army and navy who were near enough to make use of its conveniences. So, too, hospitality was extended to the presidents of colleges and universities whose graduates composed the membership of the Club. The purpose was not only to provide a place at which alumni might naturally encounter the heads of their alma maters but also to keep open and flowing the channels of informal communication between graduates and their colleges. The occasional presence of these distinguished administrators has deepened the interest in the Club for its members.

The service rendered the University Club by the college presidents was of course unintended by the presidents and unexpected by the Club. All the Club desired was to be hospitable to old and honored friends and all the college presidents expected was the convenience of a pleasant home opened by friends to a wayfaring scholar. As a matter of record the Club has from its beginning been alert to preserve its amateur standing. Members of whatever category whether



college presidents or lesser dignitaries have been careful to avoid identifying their personal or professional or business affairs, and most of all their political affairs, with activities of the Club. The University Club has become a place where a large number of men considered by their fellows to be interesting enough to be admitted to membership come together purely socially. The Club provides such facilities as the tastes of its members and its own resources suggest. A member if he chooses may write a book in the library or play a game of squash on an excellent court or fatten himself in the dining room or at the bar or make himself lean in the steam room or the gymnasium. But whatever he does, it is as one of many who think to pursue their particular variety of happiness in the company of others who have been exposed to similar influences and who may conceivably provide agreeable companionship for such leisure as men may wish to devote to their club.

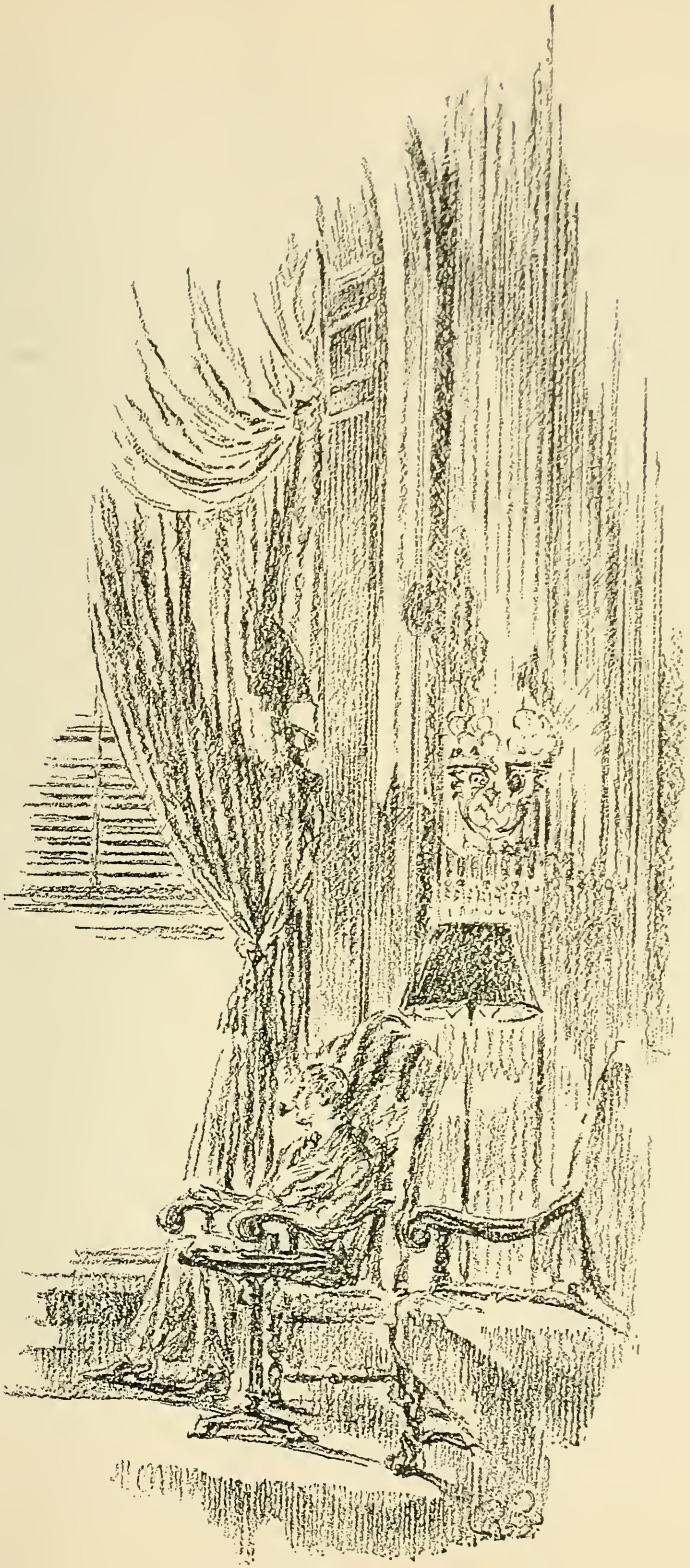
W.L.C.

Resources of Our Home

The present home of The University Club was formally opened with a dinner for the members at nine in the evening of May 17, 1899. The building, designed by the architect Charles F. McKim (Harvard '70) of the firm of McKim, Mead & White, won almost universal approval. Newspapers referred to its "splendor" and to the "luxury of its appointments." Satisfaction with the completed design soon healed the schism which had developed in the membership over the propriety of carving the seals of certain colleges and universities on the facades. That there had not been enough space on the main floor to accommodate the Billiard Room (then generally regarded as the social center of the Club) was of course deplored. But the decision not to include a "ladies' annex," such as was in successful operation at the Metropolitan Club, was applauded.

It was soon found that the elegant new home had brought a certain new tone to the life of the Club. It was reported that the inclination to ogle from the windows of the main lounge the ladies passing on Fifth Avenue was quickly discouraged, and that drunkenness, which had so often overtaken members of other clubs, and even occasionally in the past, it was admitted, some members of the University Club itself, was happily never encountered in these improved surroundings.

As is usually the case, some of the decorative painting could not be completed for the opening. It was not until the summer of 1904 that the artist, H. Siddons Mowbray, painted his magnificent decorations for the Library, modeled



after those of the Borgia Apartments in the Vatican—"one of those works of art which bear the marks of permanence on them"—and not until 1913 was he able to finish his Aurora for the Council Room ceiling. Since then there have been no important changes in the decorative character of the principal rooms of the Club. A member revisiting the House today, after an absence of half a century, would find himself completely at home in the Fifth Avenue Lounge, the Library, the Council Room, and the Main Dining Room. He would, however, be lost and confused elsewhere, for almost all other spaces have been rearranged, redecorated, and reassigned in a continuing effort to adapt the building to the unpredictable changes, which the first half of the twentieth century has imposed upon club life in the city. Yet when he had finally gotten himself re-oriented he could hardly fail to observe how faithfully and effectively the building as it now is reflects the character of those changes.

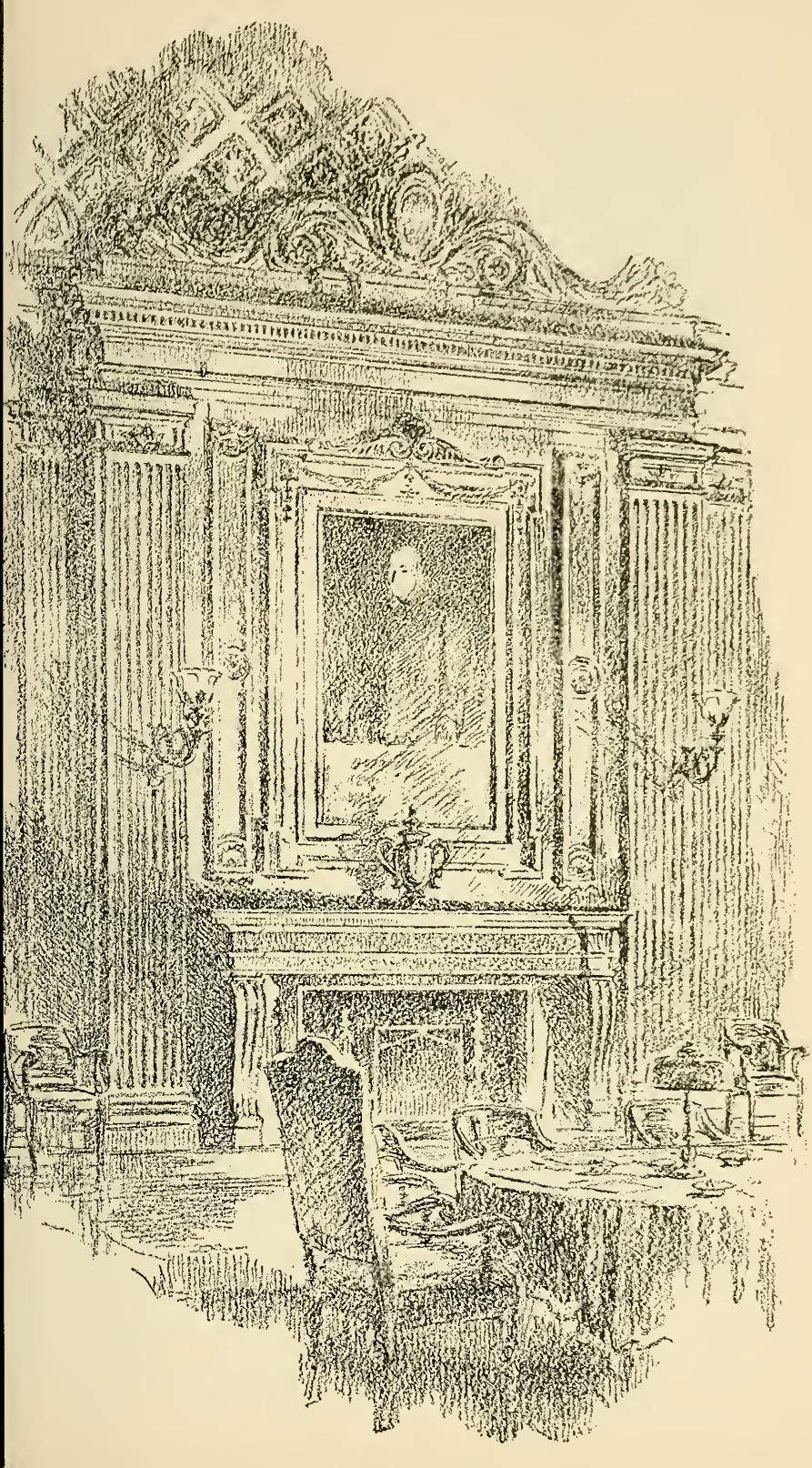
He would notice for one thing that the building, which originally extended only so far to the west of the Central Hall as it does now to the east, has been much enlarged. So great was the popularity of the Club in its new home that by 1915 the Council was forced to recognize that the building was too small. The period for waiting candidates for resident membership, some seven years in 1912, was increasing at the rate of about four months a year. Operating costs were increasing too, presenting the Club with the familiar, unpalatable alternatives of enlarging the membership or increasing the dues. The solution of these problems in the usual manner by increasing the charges failed to diminish the growing popularity of the Club, or to quiet the demand for increased facilities. This resulted, in

1918, in the construction of the large addition to the west, extending through the full depth of the block between Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth Streets.

This addition, sometimes referred to as the "new building," was designed by William Mitchell Kendall (Harvard '76) who, twenty years before, had assisted McKim on the plans of the original Club House. It made provision on the main floor for a Grill Room, Bar, and Billiard Room, while above were added some eighty-four bedrooms and three new private dining rooms. The principal entrance to the handsome new wood-panelled Grill Room was made through the west wall of the Cafe, and effected a change in its use by attracting large numbers of backgammon players to its pleasant window tables. But to many members the most important accomplishment of this addition was that it improved the original design by bringing the Billiard Room from the obscurity of the mezzanine down to the main floor, where by the standards of the period it belonged. Here in a long, lofty room looking out on Fifty-fifth Street, the rows of billiard and pool tables were installed. Benches along the walls and the adjoining new bar catered to the comfort of players and spectators. What was generally considered the social center of the Club was at last established in the proper location with the proper conveniences!

At about this period another but less generally accepted alteration was made to the original building. The amenities of the roof-garden, where a "loggia of latticework in the center of the roof space allows the partaking of refreshments," were sacrificed to make space for some courts required for the relatively new game of squash, fast growing in popularity.

In the building thus enlarged and altered, the Club was



to enjoy some ten years of what in retrospect seemed the calm of Indian summer before the wintry blasts of 1929. The building was still accorded great acclaim as an architectural masterpiece. In national polls of professional and critical taste, it continued to be listed among the ten most beautiful buildings of America. Often it was placed second or third. The waiting list of candidates was long, and Club operations showed a satisfactory margin of safety.

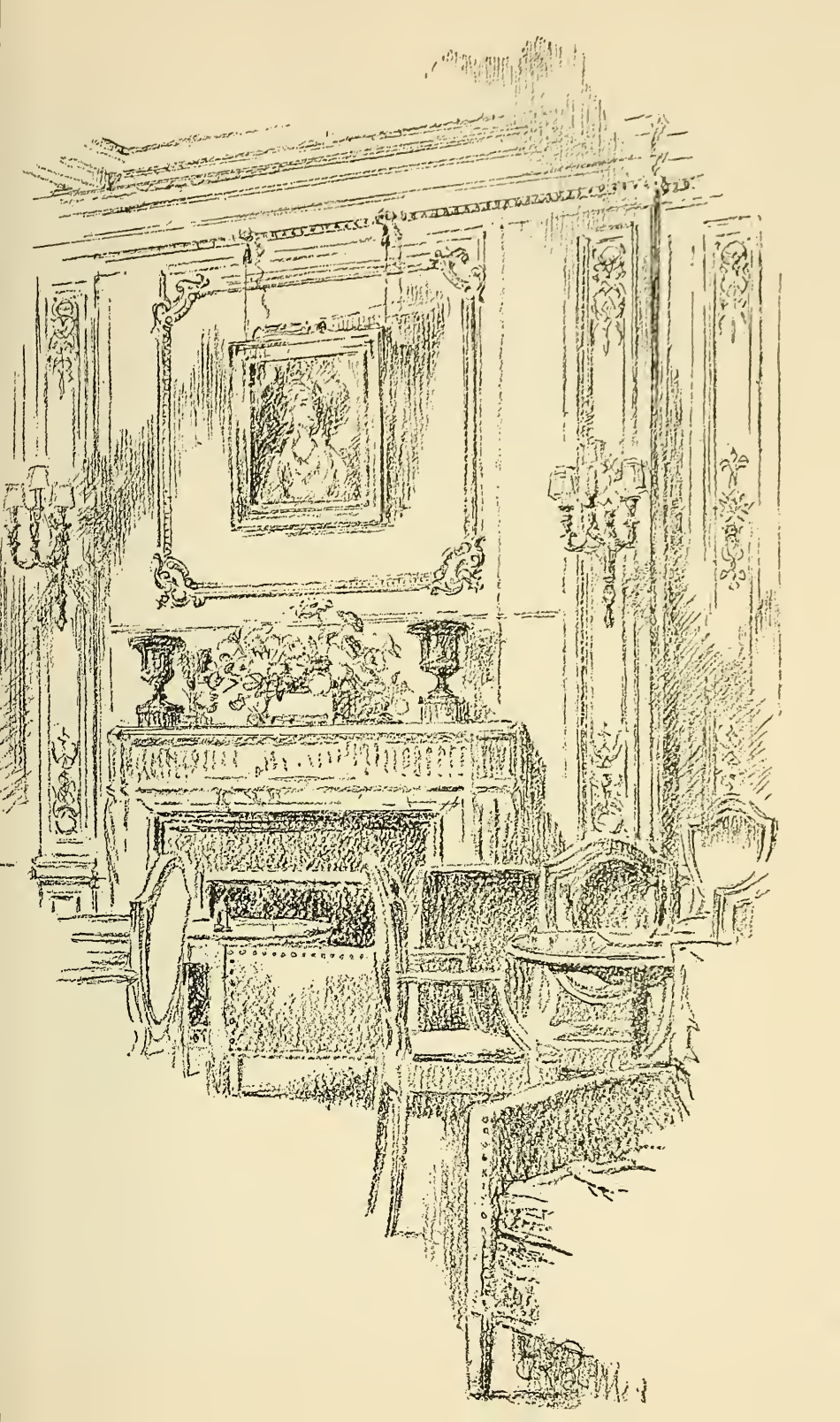
By the 1930's, however, it was apparent that further changes in the Club House were required if the effects of the depression and Prohibition, to the distress of many members, seemed here to stay. If the sociability stimulated by an occasional friendly drink was not to be lost to the Club, an arrangement must be made for storing and making conveniently available a part of the private stock which some members had, whether by inheritance, foresight or ingenuity, been fortunate enough to accumulate. A room was required which should be quiet, relatively inaccessible to strangers, large enough for tables and a bar for service set-ups—conditions all provided by that space on the mezzanine occupied by the Billiard Room until it had been moved, over a decade before, down to the main floor. A design of oak panelling was developed for the walls of this room, ingeniously arranged so that each panel would open into a locker capable of holding two cases of supplies. The bar was moved up from the ground floor and reset; the room was air-conditioned and comfortably furnished. The work, initiated when Prohibition seemed permanent, was completed in 1933, after Repeal. Members using the Taproom today are often surprised, when a steward opens a panel in the wall, to observe the full-size liquor lockers, reminders of the rigors of life twenty years ago.

In the decade from 1930 to 1940 the Club management

continued to improve the accommodations for younger members. The old squash courts, which had replaced the roof-garden, were in turn replaced by two new courts with board linings and large galleries. The bath department was modernized. To make way for College Hall, the Billiard Room, languishing now with little patronage in its large ground floor home, went travelling again. It was returned to the mezzanine, this time to the space then occupied by the Card Room. A sort of chain reaction resulted. The card players moved to the northwest corner of the Library floor, displacing the chess players, who moved one room south into the space originally used by the Library for periodicals. The flexibility of the Club House design was again proven. Most activities involved in this most recent round of musical chairs were considered to have found improved surroundings.

By the 1940's, the membership's historic resistance to a "ladies' annex" wilted in the heat of social change. The Strangers Room and the Backgammon Room, at the left of the main entrance, were rearranged, redecorated and assigned to the ladies, with such highly satisfactory results that few understood why it had not all been done years ago. But the change drove the backgammon players from their sunny south windows on Fifty-fourth Street to the air-conditioned alcove of the Taproom on the mezzanine. And of course by 1949, only seven years after the admission of the ladies, their facilities had to be greatly expanded and again rearranged and redecorated. The Grill Room was added to their dining domain, and the old Cafe—their original dining room—was made their cocktail lounge.

The years following the second war brought many small changes, mechanical improvements and replacements, in-



cluding new elevators, to keep abreast of modern requirements for convenience and safety. In 1951 the main floor was again rearranged, this time by the exchange of the office space for the coatroom space, the office accepting a reduction and the coatroom a very useful increase in the move.

The building is now venerable; it carries its years with great dignity and charm. Its capacity for adaptation to change has not diminished with age. It has become accustomed to being operated upon and accepts with the wisdom of age the probability that it will have to undergo periodic treatments. What the next operation will be is as always uncertain; but the development of modern air conditioning, with its promise of greater summer comfort for the members, poses a challenge—now being faced.

But the members, while continuing to enjoy and to alter the building, must accept the fact that however splendid its appointments may be, and however well it is fitted to their needs, it is no longer quite a la mode. Architectural taste too has changed. In popularity polls among younger architects, the building is no longer in the first ten. How could it be with its rich rusticated facade of pink Milford Granite when this year facades of glass are being worn? But the members' pride in their home is unlikely to be much affected by such trends. They readily agree with a recent report of the Municipal Art Society that it belongs to that small select group of historical structures in New York City which should be preserved. And they hope to preserve it.

JAMES KELLUM SMITH

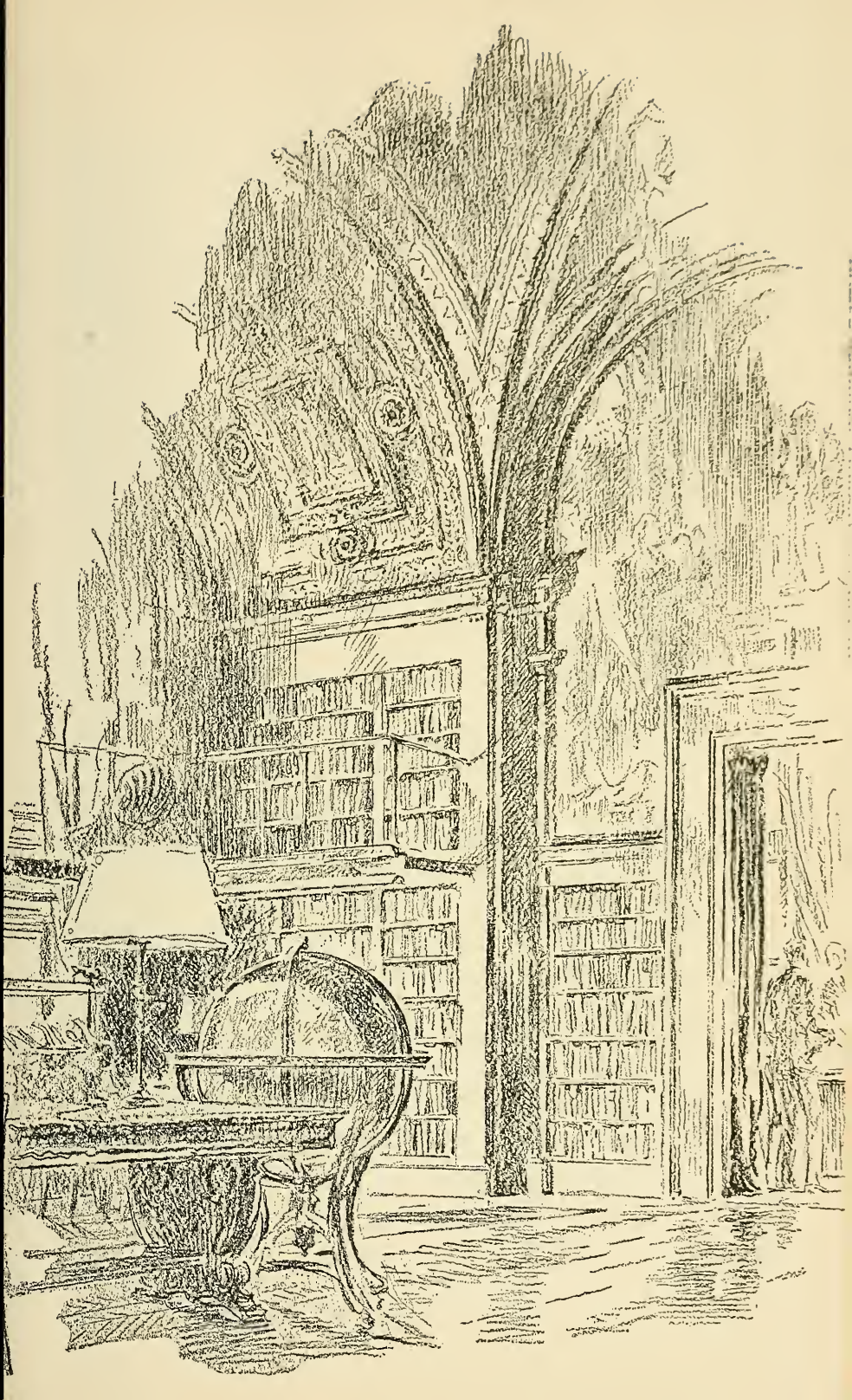
Books and Reading and Writing

Mark Kiley, for twenty-five years librarian, reports from a quarter of a century's observation, our behavior and habits.

THE ARCHITECTS say that the main library of the University Club is one of the most beautiful rooms in the country. Doctors, lawyers, authors, editors, publishers, bankers, corporation officials, college presidents and preachers frequent it. It is occasionally possible to lure a stockbroker after the closing of the market in the late afternoon. The tables in the quiet alcoves are excellent for writing and the big leather chairs comfortable for reading.

These members visit their library for various reasons. The busy Wall Street lawyer may wish to get away from his office and his telephone where he may work over his brief in peace. He gives orders that he does not wish to receive telephone calls and he goes to work. The book collector can use the fine bibliographies in the Librarian's office to check his rarities. The mystery story addict may pick up a thriller after a busy day at the office and the magazine reader can find his favorite publication. There is an abundance of quick reference material for the men who have speeches to prepare or reports to write. Somebody has to introduce a speaker at some political or social gathering. He only knows the speaker vaguely and really wants to find out something about him.

This work goes on quietly and without confusion for the most part until some wayward member comes down from



the dining room after lunch. He has had too much rich food and too many cocktails. His intentions are good and he will grab a mystery. He will then proceed to a peaceful alcove and begin to read. Suddenly he falls asleep and the book falls to his lap. He begins to snore and the noise increases in volume as time goes on. A serious man is trying to concentrate on a book he is writing at a table in the same alcove. The writer relays a distress signal to the Librarian who politely taps the member on the shoulder and tells him that he has strict orders from the Library Committee that snoring is *verboten*. The House Committee has plenty of bedrooms to rent, furnished in good taste and the rates are not excessive.

The alcoves are so inviting that they are admirable places for holding business conferences. The insurance man, the broker, or even the lawyer may wish to bring in a client, open his brief case, and proceed with the business of the day. Again the Librarian has to intervene and tell the gentlemen that the members of the Library Committee are friendly and reasonable men but their orders are "no business conferences in the Library."

The Librarian's office is not as peaceful as the alcoves. Some days the telephone rings constantly. Calls are received from Wall Street, Radio City and from the Long Island, Connecticut and New Jersey suburbs. The questions asked are varied. An eighty-seven-year-old member over in New Jersey has forgotten the date of his birth, and calls the Librarian who has known him for twenty-five years. The Librarian tells him. Somebody downtown wants to buy a book but it is out-of-print. Can a second-hand copy be found? Another calls from Oyster Bay that he is about to leave for New York. He will be in the library in the after-

noon and would like some books on seventeenth-century France placed on a table for him. Another wants some of his books repaired. Who can do the work for him?

There are calls about Colleges and Universities. Who is the President of the University of South Dakota and who is head of the Physics department at Purdue? Questions also come in the mail from members who are wintering in Florida or summering in Maine.

Mention has been made of the writing which goes on in the alcoves. Some two hundred books are said to have been written in the library and they may be seen on the shelves in a special collection as one steps off the elevator to enter. Lloyd Stryker, whose "Art of Advocacy" is now in the reviews, always uses the library in writing his books. Gerald Carson, whose "Old Country Store" has made front page reviews recently, is a frequent visitor. John Marquand is another University Club author. He has worked in it and would use it more if he were not living out-of-town at present. Edward Tinker has several books to his credit and has used the library in writing them. The late Douglas Freeman would telegraph the Club from his home in Richmond for a room on the library floor. He would then take a sleeper and arrive in the early hours of the morning, proceed to his favorite alcove and work on his monumental "George Washington" for two or three hours before anybody was out of bed. That is one feature of the Library. It is never closed. The Librarian and his two assistants are not on duty after six in the evening, but the non-resident member from Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Syracuse or San Francisco who is staying at the Club is always free to come in and read or write as he so desires.

Members have guest cards issued to their friends who like

to use the library. The well known British authors, Somerset Maugham and Cecil Roberts, have worked in its alcoves. Mr. Roberts always says that there is nothing in London comparable. Many of the speeches of Lord Halifax were written in the library when he was British Ambassador to the United States. He once had a speech to make in Erie, Pennsylvania during the Second World War. After it was made, one of the Erie city officials asked him where he got his information. The Ambassador knew more about the history of Erie than the official. The information was obtained in the library.

Delegates from other countries to the meetings of the United Nations often use the library as guests. Sir Alan Burns from England and Mr. Leslie Knox Munro, New Zealand Ambassador, like to write at the tables. The President of the University of Hawaii visits the States two or three times a year and always comes up to the library.

There are about seventy-five thousand books in the library at present and it celebrated its seventy-fifth birthday last December.

It is generally considered that most of them are pretty good books. The cultural subjects have always been stressed. Books of general literature, history, biography, art, drama, music, military and naval history, encyclopedias, bibliographies, general reference books and college and university histories line its shelves. These books are selected at monthly meetings of the Library Committee from lists presented by the Librarian, and at times there may be acrimonious debate over the adding of a particular title. One member of the Committee may think that the author is subversive while another may think that he is not. Recommendations for the purchase of books are made by members from time

to time and they are usually endorsed by the Committee if the book has merit and will fit into the general collection. However, the Committee can say "no." Most of the books are purchased from the income of the A. Barton Hepburn Fund. Mr. Hepburn was a member of the Library Committee during the First World War and gave the fund at that time. He later became President of the Club. There are also smaller funds bequeathed by members for the purchase and repair of books.

Gifts are received from loyal members. During the last ten years three outstanding collections have been presented. They are the Edward Larocque Tinker collection of finely printed books published between two World Wars; the whole Library of the New York Southern Society; and, the Carroll O. Bickelhaupt collection on sporting firearms and hunting. The Tinker collection is supplemented by a group of books on publishing and printing which is helpful to the publishers who are members of the Club.

Books from the various collections relating to topics of current and historical interest are exhibited on the main floor of the clubhouse from time to time.

The Library was founded by Henry Holt, the publisher, in 1879. He had a fertile idea. Some men become members of the Club merely because of its library. Others may never get beyond the tap room on the second floor. The main library is on the fourth but questions are often received over the telephone from members during the cocktail hour.

It is a pleasure to see so many younger members using the library since the end of World War II.

Events and Attractions

How much attention to give to pleasures of the mind has been a problem for successive generations of University Club members. To some the very name of the Club suggests an insatiate demand for lectures and seminars and entertainments that impart further information to already well instructed citizens. But not to all. History has recorded various efforts to provide lecture courses, concerts, discussion groups and other varieties of recreation that presuppose much loose time and energy as well as a trained intelligence eager for more work. There have been notable successes to which in retrospect the sponsors and members look backward with pride. Other efforts have been made that suggest the limitations of the energy and time busy men display where matters outside their business and professional interests are involved. At any rate what we have done well and what we have tried less successfully are both interesting and possibly useful to those into whose hands future responsibility will fall.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL'S VISIT

What we have done with most eclat is to be host to distinguished leaders who were able to talk interestingly on matters of world concern. We cannot claim to be unique in this but we may observe our basic humanity. The most successful affair in recent years was the luncheon given Winston Churchill on March 18, 1946. Mr. Churchill was not at the moment Prime Minister but he was the most

famous political leader and orator of the free world and what he might say could be of importance to all men.

The Club did its best to be a good host. To assure comfort to its famous guest his aide was asked: "Is there anything Mr. Churchill would enjoy at luncheon?" The naval officer who accompanied him replied, "Yes, a good bottle of brandy and six large cigars." It was not recorded that Mr. Churchill's consumption equalled his aide's estimate but naval officers on both sides of the ocean prefer to have too much rather than to run out. Food was still restricted and as the Club had elected to serve filet mignon in Mr. Churchill's honor, much borrowing and begging was needed to find the 800 steaks needed for the occasion.

The interest in the meeting was such that a large part of the audience had to be seated in College Hall. There the great man could be heard via the loud speaker but not seen. Mr. Churchill very cheerfully agreed to visit them on the conclusion of his speech in the main dining room.

When Mr. Churchill made his famous address at the luncheon, he used for guidance several notes written in his own handwriting on a small piece of paper about 4″ x 5″. At the finish of his address he tore this piece of paper into fourteen parts and threw them on the floor behind his seat on the dais. This was observed by an employee. At the conclusion of the luncheon these fourteen pieces of paper were retrieved and put together. They are now in the Club records with other material connected with this luncheon. Incidentally, Mr. Churchill used this same employee's fountain pen to sign the Club guest book on this occasion. A member of the Club later offered $50.00 for this pen. The offer was refused!

Here is the outline of his speech:

Fraternal Association
Communism
Great Britain Imperialist?
Stability Revolutionary?
Loan—Important***
U.S.A. { Strength / Strikes / War unthinkable / "Dreadnaught"

SATURDAY LUNCHEONS

As PROGRAM committees and poets discover it is impossible always to be exalted. Still the program chairmen try, and one of the notable successes was the occasion of Herbert Hoover's first luncheon address at the Club. Then it was that the former President began his custom of answering questions submitted to him in advance and of basing his speech on these questions. Of course the success of the device lies in part on securing a former President as speaker and the supply of ex-Presidents of the United States available for such occasions has generally been limited.

The batting average of the program committees for these luncheons, Saturday luncheons generally in recent years, has been high. University presidents, generals, admirals, ambassadors, itinerant celebrities, members of the Cabinet, have been considered fair catches. The success of the meeting has often depended on the importance of the news that the speaker might bring. When the lecture series was young one of the chairmen added a touch by inviting the speaker to meet his committee at cocktails before sitting down to lunch. There was no objection anywhere. Later another

chairman decided to have *a small reception* of about 25 members to meet the speaker. Still there was no objection. Then Chairman Paul Williams decided that if 25 members would like to meet the speaker well enough to join him at a cocktail, maybe the entire audience would. That chairman turned out to be completely right. Further reflection led to the conclusion that a reception for all was the democratic procedure. So the Saturday luncheons are well fortified socially and philosophically and both chairmen and members find comfort in an arrangement that tends to smooth out the differences in the exciting qualities of the speakers.

LECTURES IN CLUB LIFE

Besides the Saturday luncheons, a lecture seminar committee was established some ten years ago. That too has had an interesting experience. The plan as outlined by Shelby Cullom Davis, first chairman of the Lecture Seminar Committee, was:

"The idea was to promote a greater understanding, both intellectual and social, between our distinguished professors in our leading American universities and our own membership. It was thought that this was particularly fitting for our Club to undertake—an activity which, in a sense, in turn differentiated it from other social organizations. The method selected was that of a reception followed by dinner after which the professor spoke for thirty or forty minutes, followed by a question period. For the first few years we endeavored to suggest "recommended reading" which would inform our members of the subject under discussion. This was the "seminar" part of the evening. Through the books recommended by the speaker the members were supposed to become better acquainted with the subject in advance

and thus make for a better discussion. After a few years, however, we found that few members actually took the time to read books and since their mention perhaps inhibited others from attending, we dropped this part of the idea entirely. The dinner series then became known around 1949 as the University Lecture series.

"From the beginning the innovation at the Club attracted attention. The first speaker was Dean Taylor of the Graduate School of Princeton and we ended our five dinners that year with the well known Harvard economist, Sumner Slichter. It was at our opening dinner of the following year, 1945, that our greatest success was achieved both from the standpoint of prestige and attendance. Through the assistance of President Dodds we were able to secure Professor Henry DeWolf Smyth, author of the famed "Smyth Report" about the atom bomb. It was Professor Smyth's first public appearance following Hiroshima and the publication of his book and it attracted not only a capacity audience in College Hall but there was an overflow which listened to his address through the loudspeaker in other parts of the Club. Several years later we also had Professor Smyth, who was until recently a member of the Atomic Energy Commission in Washington. We have also enjoyed two stimulating evenings with Professor John R. Dunning, Chairman of the Department of Physics at Columbia who conducted the experiments which resulted in the splitting of the atom in 1939. Both of Professor Dunning's talks were highlighted by visual exhibits such as the "electronic pistol" which rather electrified the audience.

"Although such current topics as economics, foreign affairs and political science have been the major fields of interest, we had a remarkable excursion one evening into

psychiatry with Dr. Zabriskie of Columbia, one into Mark Twain and the Fine Arts by Stanley Williams, then Professor of American Literature at Yale, several interesting evenings on problems of medicine, one of which was led by Dr. Willard S. Rappleye of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, etc. The range of interest has been wide. Dean (later Justice) Arthur T. Vanderbilt also gave us a fascinating evening on law.

"Within the last several years our greatest success I believe was scored by Lieut. General Alfred M. Gruenther who has now succeeded to General Eisenhower's former role in Europe. He was at that time Assistant Chief of Staff and he flew up from Washington to attend our dinner armed with a great many maps with which he illustrated, and so vividly, America's position in the world.

"It has been my feeling that these University Lecture evenings have contributed toward both the intellectual and social life of the Club by affording a leisurely opportunity, amid pleasant companions, to discuss various questions which might not otherwise come to the attention of our members. It has seemed to me too that we have gained in having an opportunity to know our savants better and I like to feel that they too may have profited from this interchange of views."

The seminar committee demonstrated that an interesting speaker on an important subject would attract an alert audience but it also proved that men employed in business and in the professions won't do much parallel reading for classes outside their occupations. So far as the pleasures of the mind are concerned even the members of the University Club have indicated a preference for the spectator or auditory entertainments. If reading is to be done the audiences

choose to be told about it. Let the lecturer read as compensation for his ability to make a speech. Not an unfair arrangement.

Once past the Admission Committee and on amiable terms with the treasurer the demands on members are not excessive and never more than the individual desires on his own initiative to offer. The fact that the Club demands nothing and asks so little need not restrain members who desire to appeal to the higher natures of their fellows. It is always permissible to try to lead a member of the University Club to fresh learning and possibly some committee chairman will have the magic to induce the veterans to do their home work for club seminars. Always the experiment will be interesting.

SOME OTHER EVENTS

An outstanding Theatre Night was held in March, 1937 with John Mason Brown as Master of Ceremonies. Between 400 and 500 attended and Charles Coburn, Margalo Gilmore, Burgess Meredith, Maurice Evans, Walter Hampden, Vincent Price, Marta Abba and others took part in the program with short acts from their current plays. An amusing incident as we look back upon it, which was not amusing at the time for the Chairman of the Committee, had to do with securing the program. The Committee felt complete confidence in producing for the guests and the show, and proceeded with its plans, sent out its announcements, and reservations came in within a few days filling the main dining room. This was long before the event—more than sufficient time for making the program. One after another had to decline the invitation for some good reason. It neared the deadline and a most dismal

failure faced the Chairman, who thought the only answer would be to call off the dinner, resign from the Club and move to Brooklyn.

On Thursday before the big Sunday dinner, the Chairman wrote longhand all through the night to each who had been forced to decline. His letters must have conveyed his despair and his tear drops must have wet the ink. Within twenty-four hours every one of those originally invited accepted by telephone or telegram and Brooklyn was saved from the residence of a displaced person.

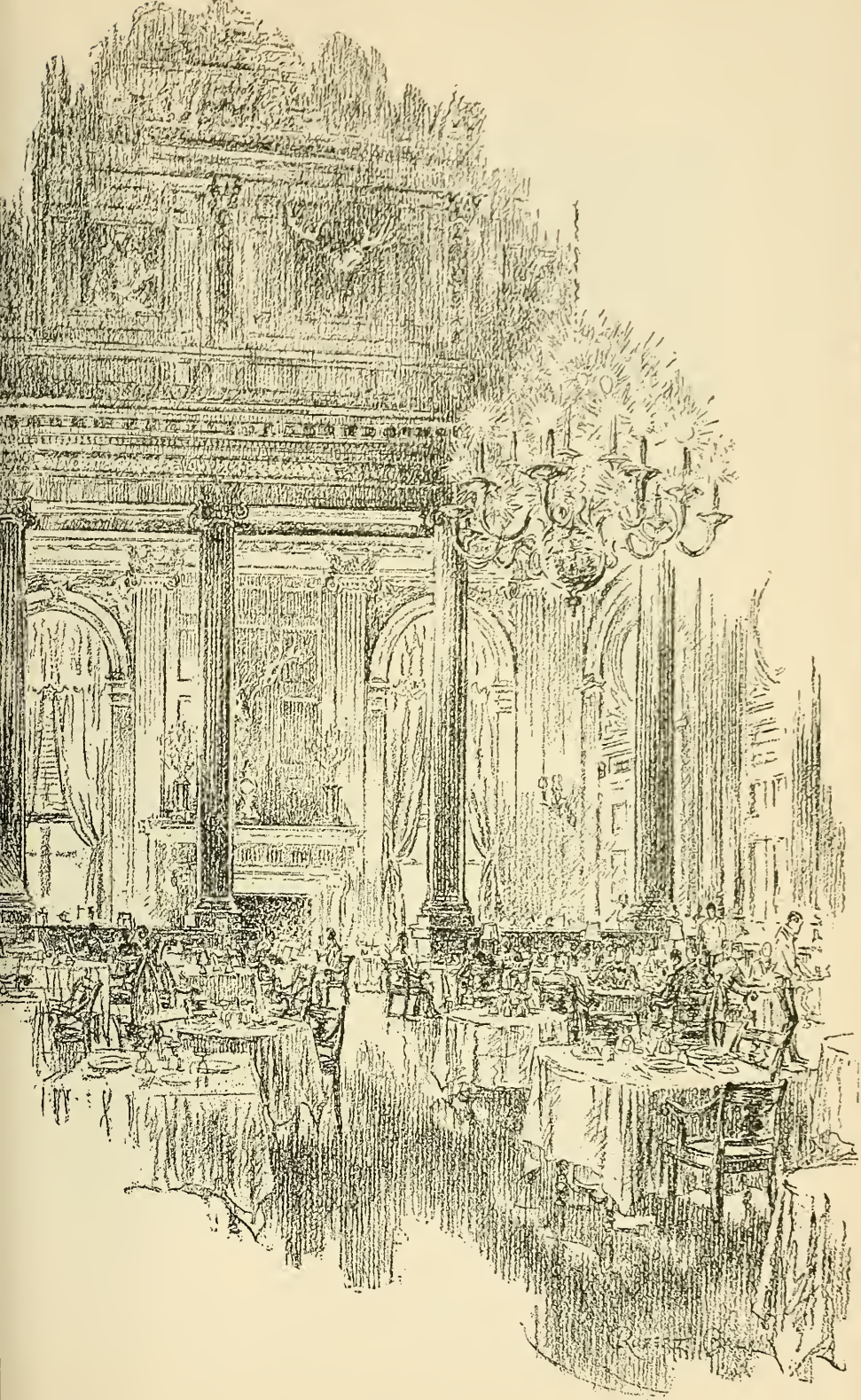
Two most interesting and amusing Food and Wine Dinners were held in 1937 and 1938.

The earlier dinner was limited to the first 125 reservations. It was requested that no cocktails be indulged in and that smoking be deferred until after coffee was served.

Before each course a distinguished guest spoke briefly on the rare wine, the reason it was chosen and on which side of the hill the grapes were grown. At the conclusion of the dinner there was a scramble for the taproom by those who were not wine addicts, to get a double scotch and soda.

The second Food and Wine Dinner, devoted to American wines, attracted 221 members and guests, showing that there is still fortunately perhaps a bit of the plebeian in all of us.

Several amateur art exhibits of the work of our own members were held most successfully. In each show there were several hundred entries, including several classes, and three awards were given in each group. The Club President attended the preview of one of the shows, perhaps because of the free cocktails. Wandering from picture to picture, he lay down his glass and became more and more



interested. Finally he stood before one which he thought he would like to have at home—it was one he could live with. An elderly member was standing by. The President said "I think that picture is lovely. I wonder who did it." The reply was "I did. I am sixty-eight years old and never had a brush in my hands until three years ago."

Two or three of the prize pictures are now hanging in the Club and for one of these our amateur received many offers up to $1000, but "it isn't for sale." He evidently wanted to maintain his amateur standing.

Three Presidents' Dinners have been held. The first was in January, 1939. There were 80 presidents of colleges and universities seated at the Head Table in order of the founding of the institutions. The program included Ernest Schelling, pianist; Lawrence Tibbett, baritone; and Thomas W. Lamont and Nicholas Murray Butler. The second Presidents' Dinner was held in December, 1941. There were fifty-five presidents of colleges and universities seated at the Head Table at this dinner. A special guest was Lauritz Melchior. Rev. Robert I. Gannon, S.J., presided over a discussion of the future of American colleges and universities. Alan Valentine, President of the University of Rochester, Edward C. Elliott, President of Purdue University, and Ernest M. Hopkins, President of Dartmouth College, participated in the discussion. The third Presidents' Dinner was held in June, 1947 with fifty-two presidents attending.

Each year for some time there has been an annual Father and Son Dinner and a Father and Daughter Dinner. Attendance at the dinners for Fathers and Daughters does presuppose the presence of a daughter, but if a member has not been forehanded, it is always possible to borrow a niece or adopt a daughter for the evening.

Of course, two big events of each year are the buffet luncheon party for Club members in College Hall on New Year's Day and the annual dance.

HOW MUSIC CAME

Music came slowly to the University Club. From the beginning eminent musicians were members, but our elders seem to have regarded music as they did the ladies; delightful but not necessarily acceptable in a club designed to beguile the leisure hours of college trained men. James W. Cox, who was given responsibility for the conduct of musical affairs in 1940, recalls the development.

As Mr. Cox remembers and has ascertained:

> Although there may have been previous musical affairs at the Club, the first record of one is on February 19, 1893, in the old club house at Madison Avenue and 26th Street.
>
> THE NOTICE READS IN PART AS FOLLOWS:
>
> The House Committee has arranged for a Sunday Smoking Concert on February 18th. Music will be by the New York Philharmonic Club. The concert will begin promptly at 8:30 P.M. Cakes and Ale will be served at 10:30 P.M.

The concert was given by a String Quartet composed of members of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. It must have been successful, because later in the year, the Adamowski Quartet gave a recital of chamber music.

From 1894 through 1901 there is no record of any music whatsoever.

The first concert in the then new (our present) building

was held on January 30, 1902, at 9 P.M. It featured the Mendelssohn Glee Club, appearing for the first time with our late member, Herbert Witherspoon, as soloist. A supper was served after the program.

From 1893 through 1919, eighteen concerts were held. Most of these were in the evening, at 9 P.M., followed by a supper, and were probably held in the room which is now the Ladies' Dining Room. The University Glee Club gave their first concert on May 6, 1909. The first afternoon affair was on January 30, 1910, when Nahan Franko and his orchestra appeared. The two Glee Club and the Franco Orchestra were the only types of music presented during this period.

The 1893-1919 period might be said to be the first era of musical events at the Club, a series of strictly male choral music and small orchestra affairs run by the House Committees. Insofar as can be ascertained, all affairs were for members only.

In the spring of 1919, the Council appointed an Entertainment Committee with Langdon P. Marvin as Chairman. Francis Rogers, an eminent concert baritone of that time, was one of the committee members.

The first musical under this new setup was a violin recital by Robert Velten on Sunday afternoon, January 11, 1920. This event was arranged by Mr. Rogers, and was also held on the first floor in what is now the Ladies' Dining Room. It was for members only. No charge for attendance was made, a policy that was followed for many years. Approximately three months later, on April 9th, the University Glee Club made an evening appearance, followed by a buffet supper.

Under Francis Rogers' direction, from 1920 through

1930, the second era in musical affairs, there was much activity, from four to eight events a season. They were all on Sunday afternoons, in January and February, except the Mendelssohn and University Glee Club concerts, which were in the evenings, on the seventh floor, usually followed by a buffet supper. These clubs appeared in alternate years. All afternoon affairs seem to have been held in the present Ladies' Dining Room.

During this period were the first vocal recitals. The solo artists were all men. An amateur mixed choral group also appeared. Male guests were permitted at some of the concerts. The trend was toward fewer evening and more afternoon concerts.

With the exception of 1929, Mr. Rogers each season personally gave one of the recitals. Only men artists were asked to appear before the Club. Some of the most outstanding singers and instrumentalists of that time gave recitals, namely, Herbert Witherspoon, baritone; Cornelius Van Vliet, cellist; Lawrence Tibbett, baritone; and two of the great string quartets of that day. For the most part, programs presented were what might be called generally of classical music.

With the exception of 1938 and 1940, starting with 1920, there have been musical affairs, every year up to and including the 1953-1954 season. Starting in 1931 and continuing through 1940, in what might be termed a third era in musical affairs, there is no definite record of any one man running them, as was the case during the previous eleven years. The number of concerts per season was about halved, but artistic standards were maintained at a high level. Among the artists appearing were such famous ones as George Copeland, pianist; Felix Salmond, cellist; Georges

Barrere, flutist; and Carlos Salzedo, harpist. Women guests were invited for the first time on the afternoon of April 8, 1934. This was so successful that they were invited again on March 24, 1935.

The first music dinner to include women guests, and the first where there is a record of a charge being made, was held on January 19, 1936, with a second innovation, the presenting of a woman artist, Miss Suzanne Fisher, soprano, of the Metropolitan Opera Company. Mr. Edward Johnson, tenor, later General Manager of the Metropolitan, appeared with Miss Fisher. This dinner was so heavily oversubscribed (above the 550 capacity) that another was given two months later on March 15, 1936.

On December 20, 1936, the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, doing excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, gave a concert after a dinner, in the Main Dining Room. This type of program was repeated on February 5, 1939. On December 17, 1939, the Blue Hill Troupe, talented and energetic amateur society, dedicated to Gilbert and Sullivan music, gave a concert, after a dinner, and a buffet supper followed.

Following the annual meeting in the Spring of 1937, the University Glee Club gave a concert. This has been repeated many times since then and has become more or less of an annual tradition.

In the spring of 1940, the Council appointed Mr. William H. Zinsser Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, and a fourth era of ten years of musical affairs started under the direction of Mr. James W. Cox, who worked alone during the first years, and later with a Musical Affairs Committee, which method has continued through the 1953-1954 season.

During the years 1941 through 1943 no afternoon affairs but seven dinners were given. The first was on January 26, 1941, when after a dinner Mr. Leon Barzin, Musical Director of the National Orchestra Association, conducted this orchestra in the main lounge on the first floor. The second act of Flotow's opera "Martha," with four vocalists, was featured. During the 1940-1950 period Eleanor Steber and Leonard Warren made their first appearances at the Club. Probably the most outstanding event was a gala dinner given in honor of Giovanni Martinelli, famous tenor, on January 18, 1942, the first ever given by the Club in honor of an artist.

On January 9, 1944, another innovation was instituted: the Sunday afternoon musicale in the general form it has taken since then. At this time Miss Mildred Dilling, harpist, and her Harp Ensemble appeared. From January, 1944 through March 19, 1950, under Mr. Cox's direction, there were 30 afternoon musicales, including five Carol Longone Operalogues; "Butterfly," "Traviata," "Bohème," "Faust" and "Tosca." There were special programs such as Russian singers in costume. Among the great artists who appeared were: Licia Albanese, Maria Jeritza, Stella Roman, Eleanor Steber, John Brownlee, Giuseppe DeLuca, Giovanni Martinelli, Giuseppe di Stefano and Georges Enesco, the Rumanian composer. Dinners were held in honor of Licia Albanese (the first woman so honored by the Club), Giuseppe DeLuca and Edward Johnson. The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company were presented after one dinner. A reception and cocktail party were given in the Main Lounge, on November 10, 1946, in honor of the artists who had appeared at the Club up to that time.

At the close of the 1950 season, Mr. Henry E. Mills was

appointed Chairman of the Musical Affairs Committee, serving for three years. Under his guidance one Operalogue, "Manon," nine afternoon musicales and three dinners were given. Among the great artists who appeared at the musicales were Licia Albanese, Martha Lipton, Elena Nikolaida, Roberta Peters, Blanche Thebom, Cesare Siepi, Giuseppe di Stefano and Set Svanholm. The dinners were in honor of Mrs. August Belmont, George A. Sloan, Lowell Wadmond and Rudolf Bing.

The record is that of amateurs. Some professional musicians, as for example the late Francis Rogers, have given generously of their talents to bring music to their fellow members. Distinguished artists have made their appearances. Musical appreciation has grown more hospitable with the times. But the Club has preserved its unprofessional status. Carnegie Hall close by has been untroubled by the competition but members and lately their ladies have heard pleasant music in gracious circumstances as at home—or maybe better.

THE BILLIARD COMMITTEE

In the Billiard Room in the new building described by James Smith, there were twelve billiard and pool tables. Only a few were used and President Walter Hope had his eye on the large room for a College Hall.

Those who did play billiards and pool were very active and ardent players devoted to their game and ready to war for the maintenance of their location. To avoid opening for Club discussion the giving up of their quarters, the President and the Chairman of the Entertainment Committee decided upon a bold stroke—it would win all or lose all. The chance was worth while.

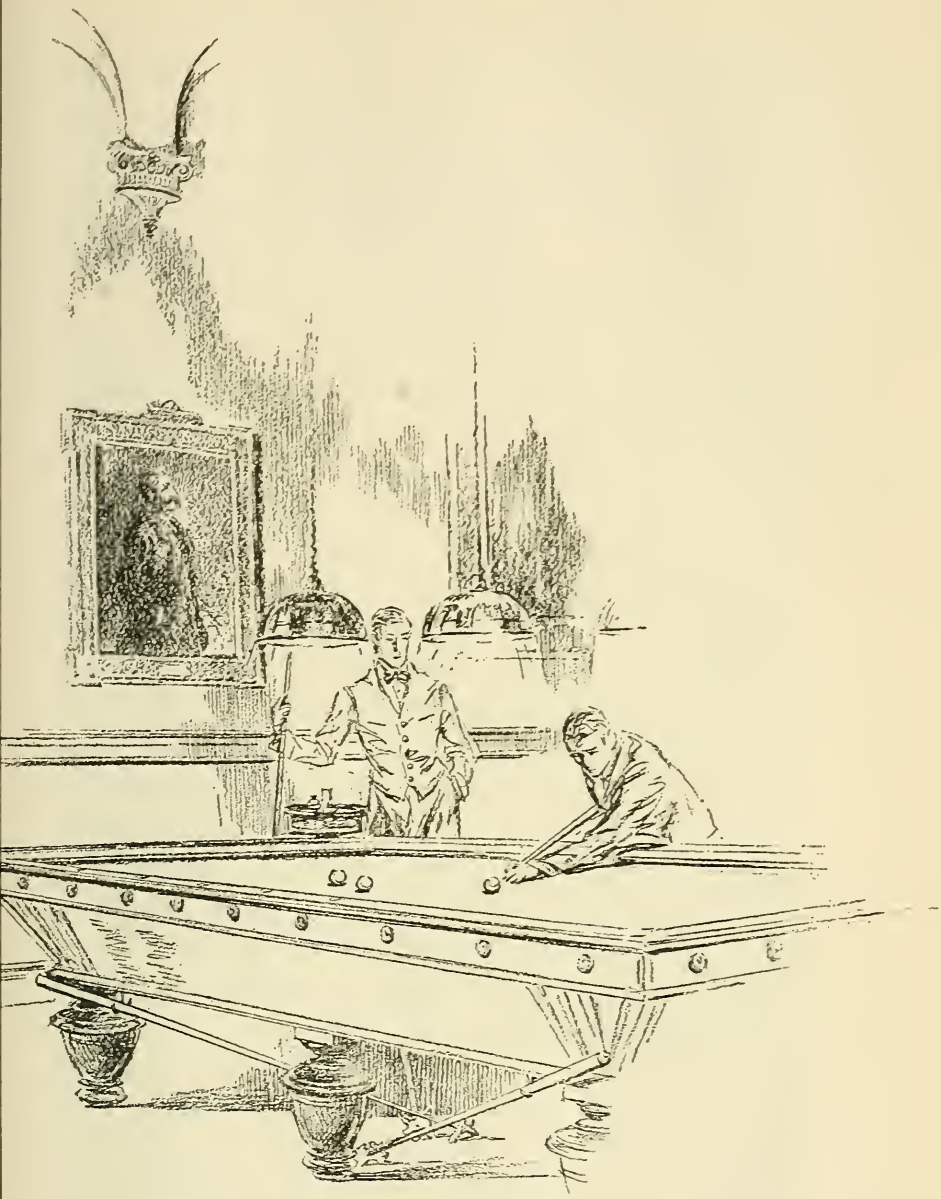
Bids were secured from Brunswick-Balke-Collender as to the cost of removing all twelve tables to the basement and the next day replacing them in perfect condition. It was a surprisingly low price for such an expert job. Invitations were sent to all members to attend a "Horse and Buggy Days Party." The Billiard Room was closed all day. That night the party was held. Five hundred attended. Members came a half hour early to get seats. A member at the piano started old songs. One member was dressed as a singing waiter and walked through the crowd with a tray of beer mugs and singing "Only a Bird in a Gilded Cage." Anyway, he knew the words. Old pictures of Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Ben Turpin, and Fatty Arbuckle were shown. It was Election Night, November 8, 1938. Mark Sullivan commented from time to time on the election returns as they came in.

The charge was $1.00 for the show, beer and snacks. Those were the days!

The announcement read that "the room was made available that evening through the courtesy of the Billiard Committee." Little did they know that this one party would result in College Hall and the removal of billiards and pool to their smaller quarters, where they are probably much happier.

Edgar Appleby has been Chairman of the Billiard Committee since 1940. He was National Amateur Champion 18.2 balkline billiards for five or six times and was the first American to win the world's amateur 18.1 championship.

In their new room there are three billiard tables and two pool tables with cowboy pool the most popular. Of the forty-five or fifty members who play when they can,



there are about half that number who use the tables at least two or three times a week.

We are most grateful to Judge Harold R. Medina for the following story of why he joined the Club. This may inspire others to get back to billiards.

THE BAIT OF BILLIARDS

"CURIOUSLY enough I joined the University Club to play billiards. But I had my reasons; and when I meet with my cronies at five o'clock every Wednesday afternoon for a few games and dinner together, I thank my stars that I had sense enough to look ahead.

"Perhaps the recollection of seeing my father play, back in the eighties or nineties, had something to do with it. The strangest part of it all was that when I joined I couldn't play, just banged the balls around—still do, as a matter of fact. But there was a subtlety about it that fascinated me, a discipline and a science which trained muscles and intelligent application might master sufficiently to make the effort worth while.

"Then, too, I had noticed over the years that it was a game played exclusively by gentlemen, or at least so it seemed to me, and my opinion has not changed. Even if the players are not always dressed in the height of fashion, they seldom fail to show that courtesy and consideration for the comfort and feelings of others which, in every age, mark the presence of a gentleman.

"Once in a while a young recruit, in his forties or fifties, joins the charmed circle. This is an occasion for rejoicing among us; and there is sorrow when one of our old friends leaves us."

BRIDGE

Of all the different kinds of members belonging to a large metropolitan club such as ours, undoubtedly the bridge players are the most temperamental, the most irascible, and generally the most difficult. They are basically clannish, with a clannishness that continually divides and sub-divides itself into smaller and smaller groups, all of which is, of course, in direct contradiction to a proper club spirit. Therefore, the Card Committee has perhaps the most difficult task of any of the club officials.

It must so control and police the card room that any member or guests so wishing may enjoy a pleasant game of bridge. Its control must not be so rigid as completely to suppress the temperaments and irascibilities of all who play or else there would be no fun at all. But it must create a pleasant and congenial atmosphere where winnings are a source of joy and losses mere passing discomfort; where misplays can be discussed, commented on, even with vigor, but soon forgotten.

The outstanding triumph of a long succession of University Club Card Committees is that this enviable result has in fact been achieved. In bringing this to pass, the Card Committees have not been without assistance. For 42 years, we in the card room had George. For some years now we have had Harold, who, given another decade or two, will have grown completely into George's place. Let any bridge player say that those two are without their mollifying influence on the asperities of the game. Either one of them, from his seat in the corner, hears the word "high spade" whispered at any table, and he is there to take the order. And a contentious argument is promptly stilled by pleasurable anticipation because it means the prompt arrival of

a comforting drink, free to all except the one who may hold the high spade on the next hand, and he doesn't know about it until later.

Another potent influence has been some of the men who, over the years, have played in the card room. There was Walter Baylis, one of the very best players we ever had, who welcomed as a partner the most inferior player who might be in the room; who never criticized except constructively; and never forgot that it was a game. Then there were Hobart Porter and Gamble Rogers, those two grand gentlemen whose pictures hang in the card room and whom all of the older players are proud of having known.

The Card Committee, or the Card Committees, have done their job by not being unduly persuasive and managerial; by insisting on a few common sense rules. One is that anyone sitting back of a table is automatically and without question cut into the next rubber as soon as one rubber is finished. Another is that the rules of bridge are automatically obeyed. Penalties are enforced as a matter of course, without discussion or without hard feeling, and another is that any newcomer is welcomed and introduced. Beyond this regulation of the ordinary, daily play, the committee has done much to stimulate bridge activity, to get more players interested in the game by developing a competitive spirit which goes beyond the mere winning and losing of moderate stakes.

Tuesday evening is considered bridge night, and on at least every other Tuesday evening during the fall and winter season, a duplicate game is scheduled. There are duplicate games with other clubs and duplicate games for championships in the University Club.

The University Club belongs to the Inter-Club Contract

League—in the past the following clubs have participated: Manhattan, Metropolitan, New York Athletic Club, St. Nicholas, Union, Union League, and Whist clubs. The main championship event in this league is the Team-of-Four Tournament. The top honor goes to the team having the highest cumulative score for four sessions spread over the winter season. There are prizes for high pair score, high individual score, and others, and our members have won their share of honors in these events.

A new event started three years ago and growing in popularity is the University Club Inter-City Tournament. University Clubs from Annapolis, Bridgeport, Buffalo, Hartford, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Springfield, Washington, and Wilmington have sent teams to these tournaments. Last year we at the University Club were hosts, and sixty-eight men participated in an afternoon and evening session of duplicate, interrupted, of course, by cocktails and dinner. The year previous, twenty members of our Club, five teams in all, went to Washington to play in this inter-city event. The winners had the honor of having their names engraved on the J. Renton Haney Trophy.

The main attraction in duplicate for University Club members only is the Club Championship. The player with the highest average score for eight sessions out of twelve is the Club Champion and his name is engraved on the Walter F. Baylis Memorial Cup. His name, with that of the runner-up, is also listed on the oak board roster in the Card Room. It is a real distinction to win this honor, and one of our members, Mr. Ralph E. Morton, has won three times and has been runner-up twice.

The College Team-of-Four and the Fraternity Team-of-Four events attract a fair amount of interest. Club mem-

bers graduating from the same college form a team and compete for the college championship and the honor of having their names engraved as champions on the Ellsworth Elliot, Jr. Cup. Members of the same fraternity form teams and compete for the honor of having their names engraved on the Fraternity Cup. In all of these events, the prize is the honor of winning—the distinction of being tops.

Another event of interest is our Member-Guest Tournament usually held in January each year. Cocktails and dinner, with duplicate following, give an opportunity for guests to see the Club and the type of members they will meet in the Card Room.

And finally, the Card Committee, perhaps in self-protection and to avoid the need of explaining at home what goes on at the tournaments, schedules two mixed-pair tournaments every season—one in the beginning and one at the end. The duplicate bridge is preceded by cocktails and dinner, and thus the explainees have a chance to enjoy the sociability and conviviality of our group. These events have contributed materially to the general success of our card activities.

George Schaeffer

BACKGAMMON

Backgammon, contrary to a widely held belief, is not a gambling game, but primarily an intellectual contest based on accurate estimates of probabilities. It is therefore fitting that it should have been played at the University Club since its founding.

In 1940, the highly popular Backgammon Room became the ladies lounge and the game since then has been played in the Bridge Room on the fourth floor, the squash court

lounge, and the Backgammon alcove in the Tap Room. The temperament and mood of the players decides the location.

Each year, two tournaments are held among University Club members—a "Doubling" tournament and a "Non-Doubling" tournament. The names of the winners are inscribed on the challenge cup and prizes are awarded to those who have reached the semi-finals.

Members of the University Club also participate in the "Inter-Club Backgammon League" which for some twenty-five years has held annual dinners and tournaments. These tournaments emphasize sociability rather than skill and our Club has an active group of participants.

Presidents in Our Midst

From time to time the Club searches its soul, appearing to wonder if the requirement that members be selected only from those exposed to college influences was showing in the right places. Delicate considerations are involved in this self-scrutiny. Obviously members who have attained success and maturity after early demonstration of intellectual prowess by college tests cannot be expected to give recurrent proof of enduring educational virility. No more can it be certain that one four-year exposure to collegiate proceedings will result in a permanent addiction to learning. So successive administrations have tried various indirect appeals to the higher natures of the members, all with the best intentions.

One productive procedure has been to expose the regular members to the occasional presence of the presidents of the colleges from which the membership was derived. The college president has been admitted to a special distinguished group of members while he was actually pursuing his vocation. When he ceased to be an active president it was provided that, if he were not already, he might become a regular member under advantageous conditions. The theory of the experiment, so far pleasantly undisproved, is that college presidents are so charged with intellectual life that some of it may rub off on even the least ambitious of old graduates. . . . How this process operates from the standpoint of a president is cheerfully confessed by William Stevenson who adds to his membership the duties of the presidency of Oberlin College.

"The sleeper pulls into Grand Central at 7:35 a.m.

President Small of Colossal University alights from the train and in fifteen or twenty minutes finds himself at the reception desk at the University Club. A few minutes later, if his foresight is worthy of his exalted station, he is settled in the comfortable room which he has reserved in advance of his arrival. He finds his room spacious, neat and well equipped, with even such appurtenances, so essential to a leader of men, as a bathrobe, thermosed ice water and wash cloth.

"At breakfast, in the magnificent dining room, if he seeks company the chances are that he will join another college president, or perhaps an alumnus or trustee of his institution. Thus he starts the day with congenial friends, or, if he prefers to eat alone, the morning paper is available as his informing companion. Later, with the help of efficient telephone service, he arranges his day's conferences and engagements. At lunch or dinner time private rooms are available for committee meetings. And, after a harried day, he can refresh himself outwardly in the pool or baths, or inwardly in the comfortable taproom, or both. In season, he can enjoy, if he so desires, bivalves at the oyster bar.

"Occasion may arise when he wishes to entertain or confer with female company—she may be his daughter, or the mother of a student, or just a friend, or if he heads a woman's college or a coeducational institution, she may be an alumnae leader or even a prospective candidate for the position of dean of women. On such occasions the ladies' reception lounge and dining room offer a pleasant and convenient facility.

"If he happens to concern himself with the investment problems of his college or university, a ticker near the main lobby will give him current quotations as well as news

flashes. If he is young enough, or thinks he is, to flex his muscles, the squash courts or pool await him. If he prefers to flex his grey matter, the chess, bridge or billiard room may appeal to him. Or perhaps just a haircut and a manicure in the Club Barber Shop, or alcohol rub will be all that he needs to restore and maintain his presidential aplomb.

"Should a president have a speech or report to write, or should he wish to read, he can isolate himself in one of the best equipped club libraries in the world. Skilled librarians are at his beck and call, and every conceivable paper, magazine, journal or volume—current or classic—await his readership. He can accomplish more uninterrupted work or intellectual relaxation in this library in a few hours than he can achieve in weeks upon his own campus.

"Yet, if, instead of quiet isolation, a president craves companionship, congenial company can easily be found in the lounges or social sections of the Club. Alumni or trustees of his college or university will find the Club a most convenient spot at which to meet their president for business or for pleasure.

"No small contribution is made by the University Club in affording its college president members the opportunity to meet each other under conditions of comfort and relative leisure and to confer on mutual problems. It is reassuring to one president to learn from another that he, too, is having trouble with the student paper or current car regulations for students. Or, perhaps, one president may give the other an idea for curriculum reorganization or pave the way for the transfer of a staff member. Even fund-raising intelligence is frequently discussed and solicitation notes compared, albeit somewhat guardedly. It takes a president of granite character, however, not to gloat to a colleague over

a successful financial appeal to a wealthy donor or foundation. There are perhaps several good reasons why, in this general area, the right hand should not be too well acquainted with the doings of the left.

"It was in 1935 that the happy idea was conceived that the presidents of all 'colleges and universities upon the eligible list shall be entitled to the privileges of the Club during their respective terms of office.' Thus the presidents of about 192 leading colleges and universities in the United States and of 60 foreign institutions can avail themselves of the Club's facilities. Last year about 70 registered as guests (quite a number on frequent occasions) and many more were present in the Club for meetings and concerts or special occasions from time to time.

"Because of its extensive and complete services, its central location (so near the offices of the big foundations!) its convenience to hotels, stores, churches, theatres and other metropolitan advantages, but most of all because of its atmosphere of seclusion and good companionship, a college president could not find a better 'home away from home,' a 'headquarters' for his visits to Gotham.

"Founded to provide a place where congenial graduates of universities and colleges can find fellowship and good company, the University Club also offers college presidents an oasis of quiet relaxation amidst the cares and hurly-burly of the hectic, fast moving outside world. But just as the Club affords each president such welcome and extensive amenities—and by the Club's generous interest in him, bolsters his spirits and morale—so each president serves as a living link—a kind of ambassador of good will and friendship—between the campuses of America and those who have gone forth from them."

Departments and Activities

When a new member is elected to The University Club, he receives a welcome note from the Chairman of the House Committee and is invited to call at the Manager's office and make a "tour" of the Club. We usually start off by enumerating our various departments and activities and try to determine what the new member would be most interested in. We then escort him through various sections of the building from the Squash Department on the 10th floor to the Bath Department in the basement. We explain that if at any time he feels his vitality is low, or that he has had a very tiresome day, the Bath Department is an ideal spot for a tune-up, as here he will find hot rooms, steam rooms, rest rooms, sun lamps and masseurs who will give him individual attention.

CARACALLA COMFORT

At this point Paul Garrett, an appreciator of the Bath Department, consents to give a testimonial of experience:

"It is said the bath is man's second oldest sport. Certainly, it is the one he begins earliest and continues longest.

"For some the bath is not so much a sport as an art, a tonic, a curative, a necessity. However it may be defined, indulgence in the bath is a pleasure at the Club. Our facilities are believed to be among the finest and most complete in the city. It has even been stated that they compare not unfavorably, in the latter if not in the former category, with the famous Roman Baths of Caracalla, although this would seem to be an exaggeration.

"The Club's baths are located in the basement. For those

who like a spot of exercise before bathing, a broad flight of marble stairs lead down from the lobby to the air-conditioned lounge. Here are easy chairs, magazines, newspapers. Smoking is permitted in the lounge but not in the baths proper.

"Central feature of the latter is the pool. It holds 45,000 gallons of water, not too cold, not too warm, and is large enough for a swim or a dive, being 48 feet long, 17 feet wide and 7 feet deep. Adjacent to the pool are those mandatory prerequisites to a dip, the showers.

"Other facilities include an exercise room, a steam room, a hot room, a restroom for that afternoon nap and dressing cubicles. There are also electric cabinets, ultraviolet lamps and infrared lamps. Six masseurs are on duty to give special rubs and massages. Lockers may be rented by the year.

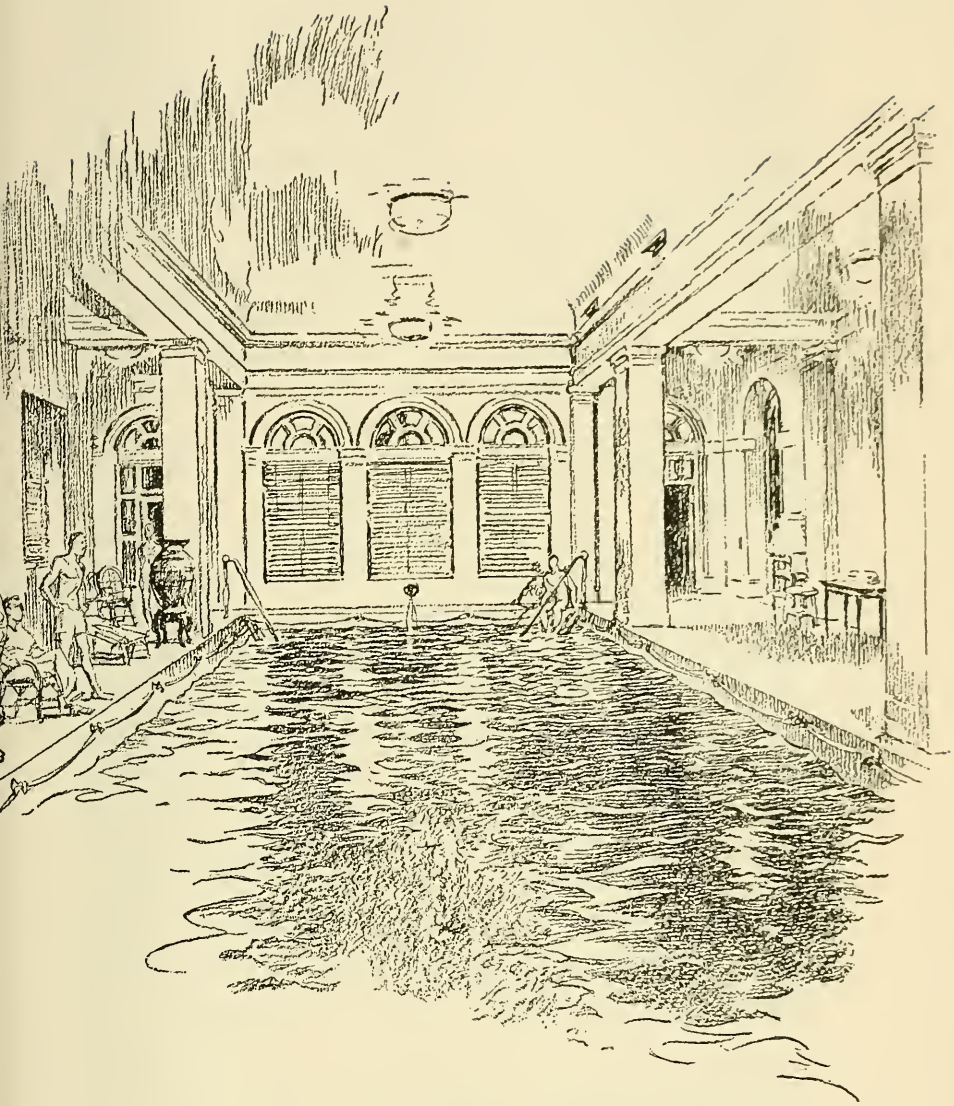
"The baths of the University Club have been likened to a year-round health resort—cool in summer, warm in winter, calculated at all times to relax the spirit, soothe the nerves, ease muscular aches and pains and reinvigorate the body. A coat of tan, there acquired, cannot be differentiated from the Palm Beach or Southampton variety."

SQUASH RACQUETS

THE MEMBER who wants his exercise may also go to the tenth floor devoted now largely to those who play squash racquets. Arthur H. Lockett, a veteran member whose skill at many games made him a persuasive advocate of space for sport, tells this story:

"In 1919 when the Annex was completed, it included two squash courts on the tenth floor with dressing room lockers and showers.

"At that time squash tennis was played at almost all of



the clubs in New York City in spite of the fact that only squash racquets was being played at most of the colleges. It became evident that college graduates would seek opportunities to continue squash racquets after graduation. A few of us, realizing this, took up squash racquets. We found the game superior in many ways.

"It soon supplanted squash tennis at the University Club and there was such a demand for the courts that the Council in 1922 authorized the expenditure of approximately $20,000 for the construction of three new courts of the required dimensions for squash racquets, which vary somewhat from the dimensions of the squash tennis court. This gave us a total of five courts.

"The game continued to grow in popularity so that in 1928 it was decided to enlarge greatly the squash racquets facilities. Over $91,000 was appropriated for the construction of three additional courts for singles and also one doubles court for the doubles game, which was rapidly coming into popularity. This necessitated greater dressing room and locker space, so a new large 45 x 35 dressing room was built, with dressing cubicles on three sides, leaving ample room in the center for ping-pong, backgammon tables and lounge chairs. Also was added a small room used as a bar and trophy room. With this layout, the University Club became the leading squash racquets club in the city.

"Some of us thought that to make sure of holding this position, we should have two singles courts of the most modern standard construction with a gallery having maximum seating capacity, so that for tournament use it would surpass all others.

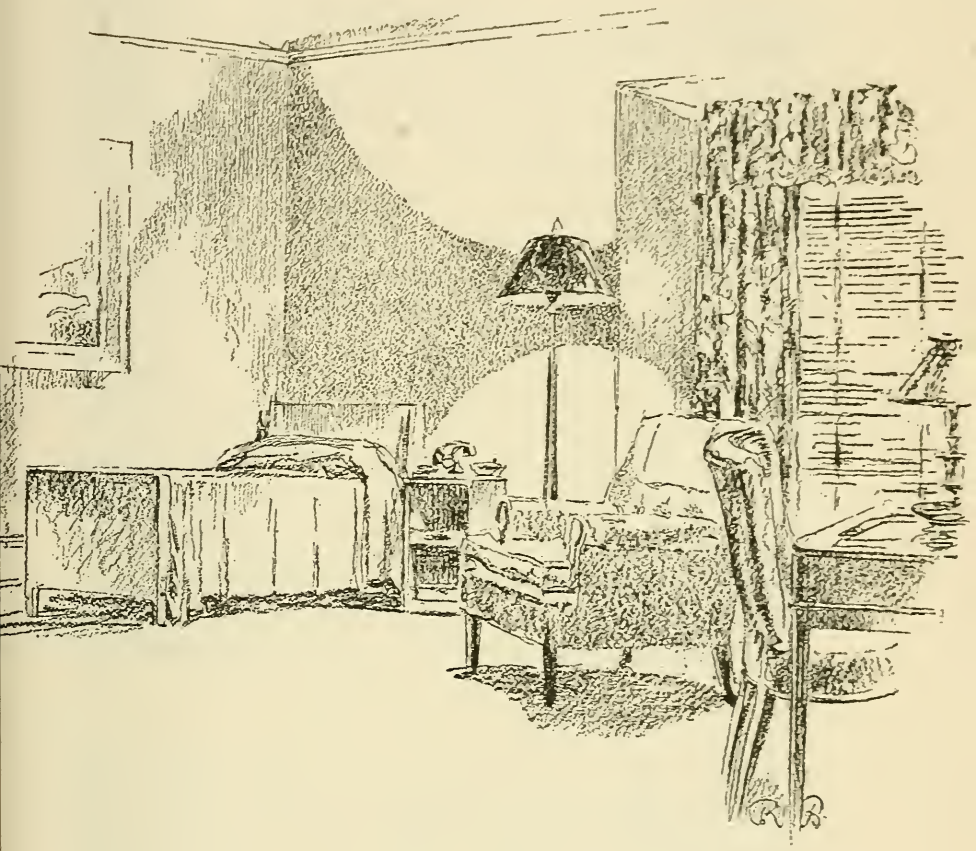
"We presented our case to the Council with the argument that it was essential that we should maintain our

leading position. We held that it was of vital importance in attracting younger members so much needed. Already the facilities on the tenth floor where squash racquets was located had created a younger club within the club and was perhaps more live and active than any other group.

"The result was that the Council, in 1934, gave us a free hand, which brought about the present two singles courts with a combined gallery accommodating over two hundred spectators for each court with perfect vision of the game.

"This brought the total to approximately $150,000 expended since 1919 when the Annex was completed. That it was well spent is shown not only by the continuous use of the courts by the younger members but by the succession of important tournaments continuously held on our courts. When played in New York, we have had the National Singles, the Metropolitan Championship, the Tri-City Championship (Boston, New York and Philadelphia), Intercollegiate Championship and many other important events. Recently the first U.S. Open Championship, one of the most successful and most largely attended tournaments ever held, was on our courts. We also have held annually for the past twenty-five years an invitation doubles tournament which is considered more or less a blue ribbon event. We still need another doubles court with modern gallery."

The ninety single bedrooms and ten two-room suites are available to members who wish to live at the Club either permanently or just for the night. Each room has its private bath and valet service at hand. Until recently all bedrooms were stocked with bathrobes, slippers, shoe horns and other items of personal utility, commonly provided, if at all, by only the most painstaking host. During one of the recent minor recessions the general provision of these items was



stopped on the expressed ground of economy. Bathrobes, slippers and shoe horns are, however, still on the shelves awaiting request for those who prefer to be well dressed for any emergency. Very comfortable equipment too is gratefully remembered.

For the commuter who wishes a bath and a place to change his clothes for an evening in the city, excellent facilities are on the sixth floor. Members may rent lockers in which to leave clothes. Valet service is provided. Sometimes it is able to respond to extraordinary requirements.

During the war, the Secretary of the Army was unexpectedly called upon to make a speech at a formal dinner at the Waldorf. He was staying at the Club and his entire equipment consisted of a business suit and a brief case. The Secretary called the Valet Department to see if it could be possible to outfit him in white tie and tails! A stiff shirt, size 16½, was located in the uncalled-for laundry bin. Seven top hats which had accumulated in the storage closet over a period of some twenty years were brought to light—dusted off—and the Secretary was given a choice. A member of the staff, approximately the same size as the Secretary, provided the white tie and tails. The Secretary was correctly attired within thirty minutes and on his way to the Waldorf!

FOOD AND DRINK

The impulse that led to the creation of the University Club was the wish for congenial companionship—at dinner first, and then at other meals. Around the dining table the University Club grew. As social habits changed the Club was modified to meet the expectations of the members. The young men who came together in Mr. Kernochan's red room some ninety years ago would feel much at home in the

Florentine palace designed by Charles McKim forty years later but they would note, not unfavorably we trust, the changes brought about by their grandsons and great-grandsons.

The University Club in the second half of the Twentieth Century is a second home for more than 4,000 men, two-thirds of whom live in and around New York. What they want of their Club is first of all a place to have luncheon in amiable company. When the Club was organized, dinner was the time that members of the Club assembled. The motor car and the suburb did something to that custom. Now luncheon is the popular meal. Of the thousand meals served every day in the Club about one half are served at noon time.

Breakfast is provided chiefly for those who are at the moment residing at the Club. The conscious target of the managers is to provide what will keep the member or guest in a good humor for the day ahead of him. What a man who can choose, wants for breakfast in the nineteen fifties follows a pattern familiar to many cooks. Generally he phones to the dining room as he arises and by the time he is dressed and ready, his meal and his newspaper are on his table greeting him as he enters the dining room. The objective of the managers is to make the first meal of the day as pleasant as possible so that the member will leave the Clubhouse in good spirits for the day's struggles. What he wants to begin the day would have seemed meager to his grandfather; fruit, toast, jam and coffee, and maybe an egg if he is hearty.

The Club larder is well stocked for those who want larger breakfasts, but the managers are hosts mindful of the ex-

pressed desires of guests. At the University Club appetites in the morning are simple and perhaps restrained.

In a household as large as the University Club the daily menu presents a major problem. The Chef must cater to all types of eaters and serve just as good a dinner at six o'clock as he does at nine. There are early eaters and late eaters—heavy eaters and light eaters—sugarless eaters and saltless eaters—eaters trying for more weight and eaters trying to take it off.

In the Ladies' Dining Room the menu must be on the light side—lots of salads, dainty portions, tasty combinations with plenty of color and eye appeal. The Men's Dining Room calls for larger portions, plenty of beef, seafood and cheese.

The Chef must meet all these specifications and here's his secret! He lets the members decide what's going to be on the menu! A record is kept of the popularity of each dish, particularly the entrees. When new combinations of food are tried, he "looks at the record" and the dish is either discarded or placed on the popular list. So in the main, the popular list is consulted to make up the daily menu, not forgetting the weather and market conditions!

An old time dining room captain once said, "When a member can't find anything on our menu which appeals to him, he just isn't hungry."

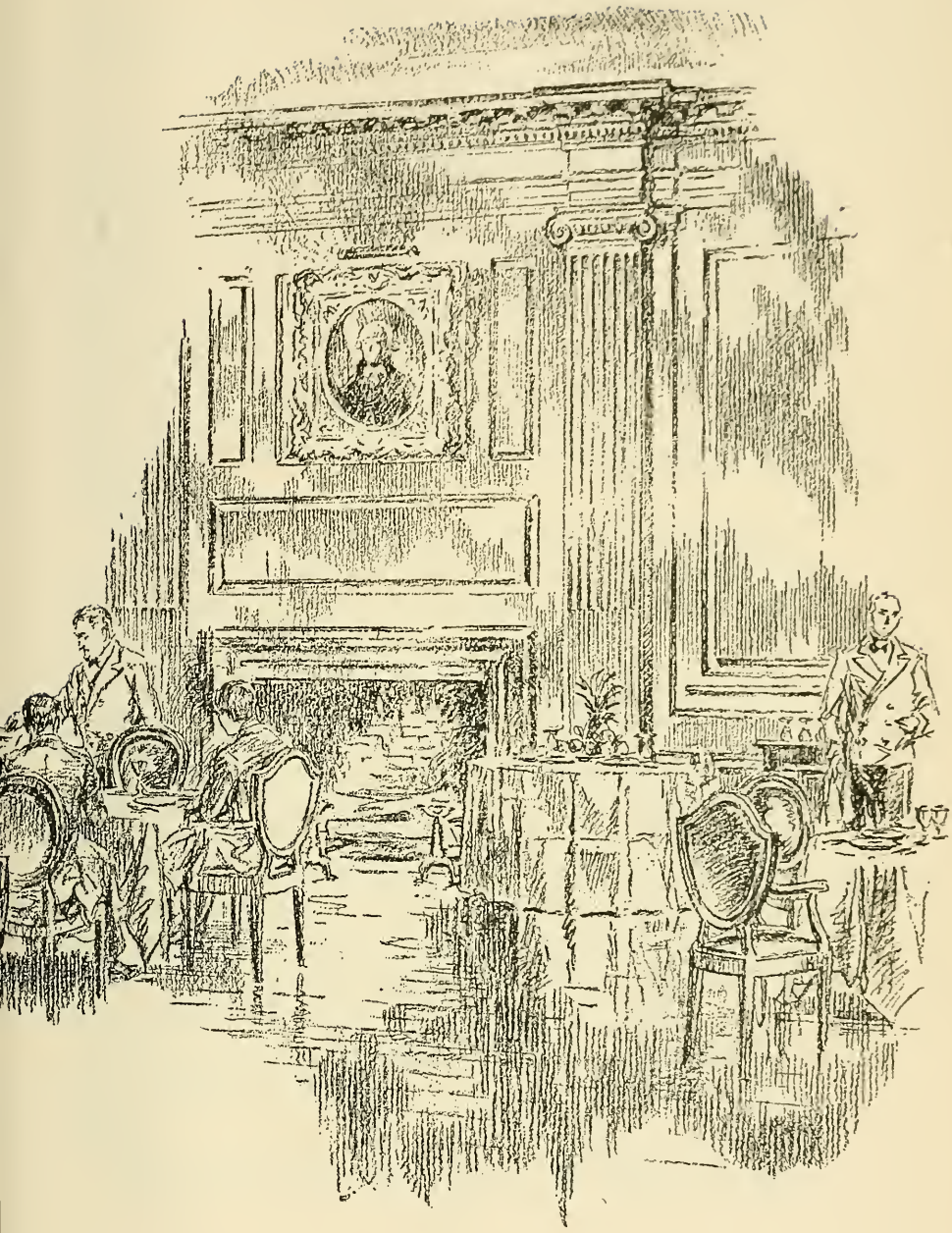
Suggestions are received from members and there is always the possibility that the member may be right. Or at least the house committee and the staff approach fresh proposals hopefully. When something unusual, such as "honeycomb tripe," is requested, it is put on the menu and a record is kept of the number of dishes ordered. If it is

found that only two or three members wish it, it is not added to the popular list.

It was financial difficulties that really brought about the thought of "letting down the bars" and the creation of a Ladies' Dining Room. The matter was discussed pro and con for over two years. When the "pros" outnumbered the "cons" by about 6 to 1, it was decided to take over the old Backgammon Room and adjacent space on the Main Floor for this purpose. "This is the end"—"It's no longer a man's club!"—"Man's last refuge is gone" were the comments frequently expressed. The older members were the most vociferous.

On the opening day the Club was jammed with members and wives for the Preview. Perfume replaced the aroma of pipe tobaccos. The dissenters scurried upstairs and took refuge in the taproom. As the days followed it was noticed that certain members who had violently opposed this female intrusion were taking a peek now and then to see what was going on in the Ladies' Department. As time went on several members, with a great deal of reticence, appeared with a lady of the immediate family to dine. The grim expressions began to change and within a short time the very members who had opposed the idea of a Ladies' Dining Room became its enthusiastic supporters. The ladies were delighted. House charges increased—and the members of the Finance Committee began to smile again.

The manager and the staff have to be deft in the use of words if customers are to be lured. Misspelling on the menus would of course be a sin against the spirit of learning but the matter goes further. In fact, well into semantics. If the chef wants to be sure that a summer's dish gets fair consideration from the diners, he labels it "chilled," or



"Frosted," confident that a mere "cold" would never attract the customers.

OUR WINE CELLAR

THE TASTES of the members as to drink are simple and North Atlantic, as the preference for Scotch whiskey might suggest. After Scotch comes bourbon and cocktails. The tendency to demand whiskey or cocktails "on the rocks" gives an icy American touch that marks a vagary of fashion. The matter of wine, as Paul Kieffer of the wine committee recalls, is the special concern of a group who have lent their time, their taste buds, and their inclinations to assure the integrity of the University Club's stocks. Quoting Mr. Kieffer:

"Shortly after the repeal of the Prohibition Amendment in December, 1933, the University Club set about restoring its wine cellar. The service of wines has always been deemed a pleasant and important feature of club life.

"The task was not easy. Americans have never been a wine-drinking people. However, at the close of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the present one, there were encouraging signs that Americans were becoming really interested in good wines. This was no doubt due in large part to the increase in European travel and the association with people of other countries. Moreover, the wine production in this country was on the increase. In certain parts of the country, such as the Finger Lake District of New York, northwestern Ohio and central California, there were soil and climate conditions resembling those of the wine producing districts in Europe, and the American wine industry throve.

"Then came the great blight of prohibition, first with

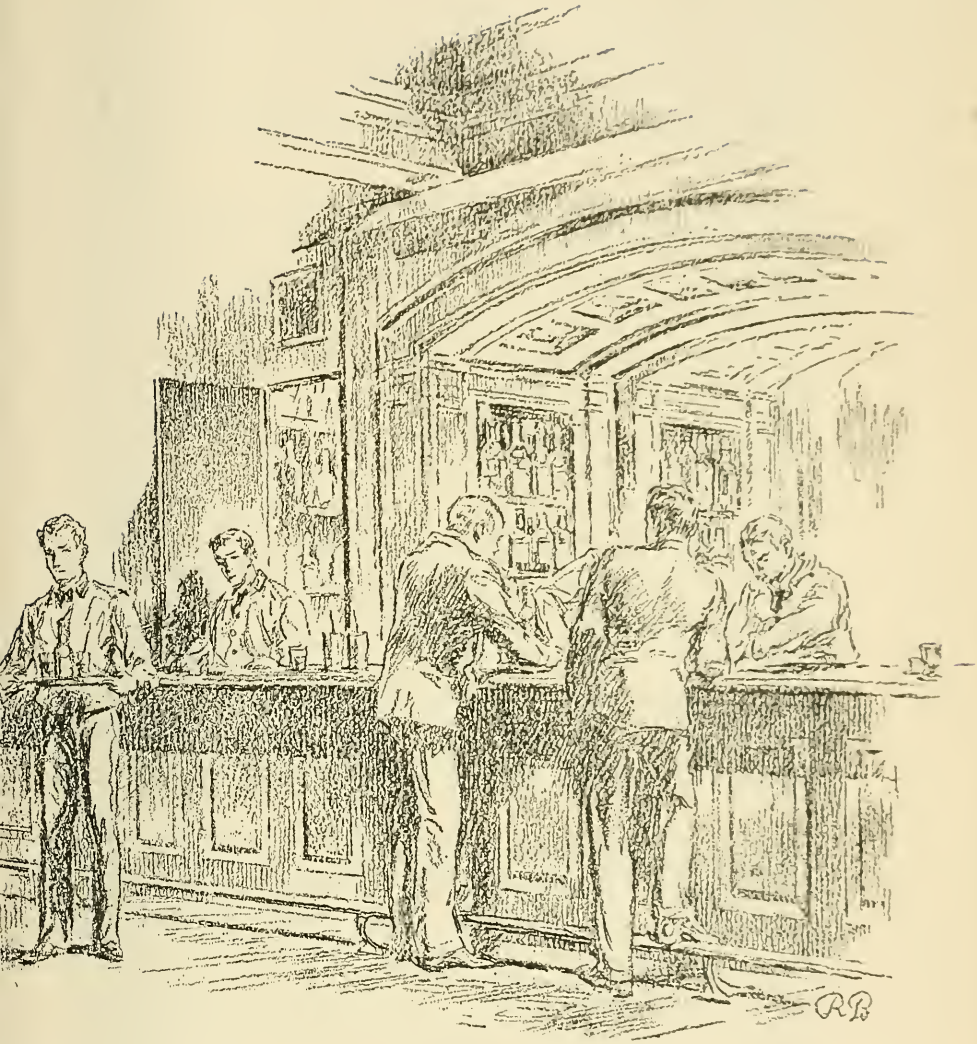
wartime prohibition in 1919 (the war being over), and then with the Constitutional Amendment going into effect on January 16, 1920. This fell especially hard on the clubs. They were law-abiding and could not compete with the speakeasies in the Roaring 20s and 30s where customers could get bootleg hootch, or with the homes where the citizens made bathtub gin. It must be confessed that a certain melancholia settled down upon the clubs.

"Moreover, the wine industry in this country was practically ruined. There was no market for the best of the wine grapes, a product of the vitis vinifera, which is a thin-skinned grape and does not travel well. Acres of these vineyards were plowed up to make room for an inferior grape which could be transported to places like New York, sometimes in the form of concentrates, for the production of the miserable wine which was practically all that Americans knew during this period of the dark ages.

"Opportunities for the consumption of good wine in the United States were set back many years.

"This was the situation in which the clubs found themselves at the time of repeal. The accumulation of a good wine cellar and the preparation of an adequate wine list are difficult and complicated tasks. Whoever undertakes them should know the history and literature of wine (which is a fascinating subject in itself), the various districts in which the good wines are produced, and the various vintage years. He should know the exporters (sometimes the integrity of the exporter is the only assurance of quality that the consumer has), and the importers in this country. The care and service of wine is a matter for the expert.

"The University Club was fortunate in having as the Chairman of its Wine Committee a man who fulfilled all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these requirements to the highest degree. Carl Ganter, internationally known as a gourmet and oenophilist, had all the requisite knowledge, experience and taste to assume the functions of such an office. He was able to devote, as he has devoted, considerable time to this task both here and in Europe.

"One of the difficulties faced by the Wine Committee at this period was that apparently all Americans, as far as wine was concerned, were divided into two classes; those who knew nothing about wine and cared less, and those who knew too much about wine. The latter, the cognoscenti, were apparently intent on convincing everybody that the enjoyment of wine is a difficult and esoteric art available only to the initiate. There was much talk of breeding and of authority and of nuances with respect to the great wines, and impudence and demureness with respect to the naughty little wines. Such an approach the Committee realized was not one with which to interest club members generally in the drinking of good wine. There are, of course, a few simple rules followed by wine lovers. They do not drink red wine with fish, nor sweet wine with meat for the same reason that one does not put chocolate sauce on beefsteak. It doesn't taste good.

"The present wine list, which is one that compares favorably with any club wine list in the country, is the fruit principally of the efforts of the Chairman of the Committee. In order to provide a good table wine for everyday use, the Committee arranged for the presentation of two wines which would bear The University Club label, one red and one white. The Club now has honest red and white wines at reasonable prices for its members.

"Another observation is on the question of prices. Tradi-

tionally in clubs there is apt to be a difference of opinion between the Wine Committee and the House Committee, the former naturally wishing to present wines to the Club at reasonable prices and the latter desiring to obtain all the profit the traffic will bear. It is a source of gratification that the House Committee have always worked in cooperation with the Wine Committee, with the result that wines of all qualities on the wine list can be purchased at prices so reasonable that they compare favorably with the prices the consumer pays in a retail store.

"The present wine list is a catholic one. Here one will find wines from the wine-producing regions of France, the Champagnes, the Bordeaux, the Burgundies, and those from the Valleys of the Rhone and the Loire. Germany is represented by Rhine wines from the Rheingau, the Palatinate, and the Rheinhesse, and also by the wines of the Mosel. Of course, there are also representative American wines. The Club can well be proud of its wine list. There is no such thing as a static wine list. The Chairman and his able and efficient secretary, who herself knows much about wines, keep a constant supervision of the wine list and the wines of the University Club are in good hands.

"Mr. Ganter, as Chairman, has from time to time been assisted by the two other members of the Committee, James W. Cox and the writer of this note, though they would cheerfully agree that the laboring oar has been pulled by the Chairman. He has done the work, and their part has been the pleasant one mostly of tasting wines with him."

And So Tomorrow

What we are you might guess from what we have done and are doing. And why we think of the University Club with so much affection and respect. It is a part of all of us. And none of us is all of it.

A club is a peculiar, perhaps a unique, accomplishment of modern life. It is an expression of the desire to be together. That desire seems to be too basic to be merely human. Horses in a pasture seem to feel it. They huddle when they might with advantage scatter. Most domestic animals appear to be conscious of the pleasure to be had in the presence of congenial fellow creatures. Sheep publish no yearbooks but they stick together in fair weather and foul. They would rather eat together than eat alone. They want company even in their moments of idleness and of meditation, if that is what they are doing when food is no longer wanted and nothing exciting calls for action.

Civilized men have enough of the social instinct that is so widely distributed among animals to give it beautiful forms of expression. Men peculiarly among living things form lasting associations. Some birds are monogynists. In others the attention wanders. Some men are durable in their relationships with others. Some are not. The particular kind who likes what the University Club provides and who himself is approved by the Club's board of scrutiny compose the Club. What is it that unites us?

An intangible quality really. Elusive to define. We know perfectly clearly what it is not. We are not a political organization. Our members belong to political parties, vote, sometimes are candidates for office, sometimes are elected

to office. A few are elected to high offices, governors and even Presidents have been and are on the roster. But the part of the man that is elected to office is not the part that leads him past the membership committee. When a man comes into the University Club he checks his politics at the room for hats, overcoats, rubber shoes and other things he wears. Political activity in the Club would be as unexpected as a pet dog in the lounge. We are not hostile to dogs but the University Club was not designed for them. The only way in which politics is legitimately considered is in the estimate of a candidate's total personality. A disagreeable man might find difficulty in getting passed by the gentlemen of the Membership Committee but it would be because they found him poor company and not because of his political opinions. Of course the same qualities that produced political oddity might also result in social deficiencies which would make him a poor companion. But the considerations would be personal and individual and not political.

Similarly, interest in economic activities, or business affiliations of any sort, has no part in making the University Club what it is. The Club expenses have to be paid by the members but short of an ability to pay the moderate charges of membership the business qualifications of members find no expression in the Club. A man whose activities would be found offensive by other members would be unlikely to seek membership in a group he too on his own account would find uncongenial. The Club has no economic views to maintain or to expound although individual members have personal opinions they are generally ready to announce and to defend. But not necessarily in the Club. Men get together for various reasons but the promotion of politics, or economic interests was not one of the motives that in-

spired the formation and the support of the University Club. The founders did not define their objectives. As birds of a feather they instinctively flocked. The feather by which they selected comrades was grown only during years of undergraduate life in an approved college. That very criterion excluded many whose qualities and whose accomplishments were notable. The gifts that lead a man to success in painting, or sculpture, or music, or even in business or government have not on the record been prevailingly academic. The University Club was not unmindful of the fact that success in life bore no necessary correlation with the kind of education to be attained in work leading to a baccalaureate degree. What the founders did decide was that of their many friends they would invite only those who had similar academic training to join in the University Club. Other clubs founded on other standards of choice were available to those who were not stamped with the college brand.

If the University Club has had any definable purpose it has been the promotion of friendly association between men of similar tastes and feelings. It has been a common ground where men likely to prove congenial to one another might meet in pleasant surroundings. Experience has proved that this idea of the founders was a sound one. Back in 1865 when the pioneers were meeting in the rooms of the Columbia Law School on University Place a constitution was adopted. The founders said their purpose was "the promotion of Literature and Art, by establishing and maintaining a Library, Reading room and Gallery of Art, and by such other means as shall be expedient and proper for such purposes." Some of the same men who united in forming the University Club also had a hand in developing the New York Public Library and the Metropolitan Museum. The

University Club clearly was not intended to be a duplication of either of these great institutions which in their fashion have promoted both literature and art. But the University Club has held out a very friendly hand to those of its members who wanted to write books. And its walls have always provided support for paintings. Ninety years ago men were inclined to dress their real purposes in the clothing of improvement and progress. They might have been embarrassed to come out frankly and say that they met together because they liked each other. Such an avowal at that time would have savored of the weakness associated with sentimentality. So the old gentlemen who were then very young gentlemen said gruffly that they were promoting art and literature. Perhaps it was just as well. Actually they promoted friendship. But maybe friendship flourishes more for the indirect approach. Joseph H. Choate was one of the founders and Theodore Woolsey Dwight, the great law teacher, was another. Surely it would have been difficult for Mr. Choate to say to Professor Dwight, let us promote friendship. In 1865 gentlemen did not say such things in public. Not even famous lawyers whose profession was words.

Through the years the University Club has approached its objectives with the reticence it regarded as the essence of good manners. It sought and built a beautiful home. It created an institution through which the charming values of the old may be transmitted and transmuted when the taste of the time calls for change. It has been open-eyed to see and not too slow to change. It has been modest. So for what it is and for what it is not its members present and to come may be proud.

W. L. C.

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